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HANDBOOK

FOR

SHROPSHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

WITH MAP.

NEW EDITION.



LONDON:
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.
1879.

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AND CHARING CROSS.

PREFACE.

It has been found expedient in this edition to separate the Handbook for Shropshire and Cheshire from Lancashire, by constituting the last-named a distinct and separate Handbook. The industries and manufactures of Lancashire are so vast and so "sui generis" as to demand a different chronicler from him to whom it is congenial to explore and describe the comparatively rural and peaceful lands of Salop, and the agricultural flats of productive Cheshire. Not but that there are large manufactures in parts of the latter; for though salt-mines and salt-works are a thing of the past at Nantwich, they are still in force at Northwich, Middlewich, and Winsford. In his revision of Shropshire and Cheshire the Editor has traced and explored the points of interest on such lines of railway as have been finished since the issue of the last edition, examining with their help, or that of lines previously in existence, the noteworthy antiquities, historic sites, ecclesiastical features, parks, forests, and river sides of both counties, and supplementing, where it seemed scant, the mention of such in the former Handbook. Thus more will be found anent the four Minsters round the Wrekin, in Shropshire; and in the Chester route the notice of the Cathedral will be seen to have been brought up to the present period. The Cheshire and Shropshire Meres have been mostly visited, and the accounts of hill scenery augmented, where defective. A great aim has been to detail the most direct route in each case to the point of attraction. What the Editor has found most at a standstill in Mid and West Cheshire is suitable and well-appointed hostelries, even of a commercial stamp. A list of a few good Hotels and Inns above the average is subjoined to this Preface by way of help to the traveller and stimulus to hostelries below par. It is better in Shropshire, though there is still room for improvement; but in both counties it would

be a proof of courtesy in the owners of "show places" and "historic houses," which they are duly desirous to find mentioned in County Handbooks such as "Murray's," if they would make known at the chief Hotel and the leading bookseller's shop of their nearest town, whether, when, and after what preliminary steps, visitors, presenting their cards, can be admitted. In one or two instances the Editor has been subjected to discourtesy, though it was the exception, not the rule. To several valuable correspondents in Shropshire and Cheshire, and their chief towns, he owes much helpful information.

As far as possible, the names of proprietors, the statistics of industries, populations, and so forth, have been brought down to the present date. But the Editor will feel greatly obliged to any correspondent who will forward to him additional information or corrections, to the care of Mr. Murray, 50, Albemarle Street, London.

Amongst the really good Hotels of the two counties comprised within this Handbook the Editor can mention, from personal experience, the following. In Shropshire: The Hotel Church Stretton (*a*); The Swan, Tenbury; The Crown, Bridgnorth; The Jerningham Arms, Shiffnal; The Wrekin, Wellington; The Raven, Shrewsbury; The Wynnstay Arms (*a*), Oswestry; The Hawkstone Inn (*a*), Hawkstone. In Cheshire: The Crewe Arms (*a*), adjoining Crewe Station; The Queen's Hotel (L.N.W.), Alderley; Swan and Lion, Congleton; Brooklands Hotel (*a*), Brooklands Station (Mid-Cheshire Line); Vale Royal Inn (for Delamere, &c.); The Grosvenor Hotel (*a*), Chester, Queen's Station (*a*); Gough's Hotel, fronting Woodside Ferry. Of these, those marked (*a*) are those most approaching the standard of modern requirements. The Oak (*a*), at Welshpool, just over the Welsh border, and a good centre for sight-seeing, deserves to be quoted with the same honorary letter; and a new Hotel near it, The Bull, has just been opened with good recommendations and promise.

1879.

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I.—PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.

I.—SHROPSHIRE.

Shropshire, as viewed from its physical aspect, is well fitted for its position on the Marches of Wales: the Welsh portion possessing all the features of a mountain-land; the English, of fertile plain and rich farming country. There is so much variety in Salop that it may be considered an epitome of England, for it contains, within the compass of a few miles, all the characteristics of an Alpine district in miniature, while at the same time within sight of orchards, gardens, and farmhouses.

From this very variety of scenery, which, of course, depends mostly on the geological formation, Shropshire has come to be regarded as a typical district by the geologist, who will find within its borders a complete history of the Palæozoic formation. The mountain-region is principally found on the Welsh, or western side. On the S., the Radnorshire hills are continuous with the Forest of Clun, from whence the high grounds run, with but little intermission, into the noble range of the Longmynd and the Stiperstones, the latter keeping up the connection with the mountains of Montgomeryshire, and the former abruptly ending at the beautiful valley of Church Stretton. On the other side of this valley is the equally picturesque, though not so lofty, series of Hope Bowdler, Caradoc, Ragleath, and Lawley, separating the Church Stretton valley from Apedale, which joins it lower down at an acute angle, and is sheltered on the E. by the very characteristic ridge of Wenlock Edge. The latter commences, near Craven Arms, in a series of very striking wooded terraces, and runs diagonally across Shropshire until it is brought up by the great gap of the Severn Valley, near Coalbrook Dale. To the E. of it is Corve Dale, from whence hilly, un-

dulating ground extends for the remainder of the distance to the Severn, and even beyond it, to the Staffordshire border. The chief scenic features in this district are the isolated upthrows of the Clee Hills, which are landmarks for many a mile.

The Brown Clee is the most northerly and the highest, and is connected with its fellow, the Titterstone Clee and Hoar Edge, by a ridge, which on one side overlooks Ludlow and the Vale of Teme, on the other, the broken country of the Forest of Wyre:—

> "Those mountains of commande,
> The Clees, like loving twinnes, and Stitterstone that stand
> Transevered."—*Drayton.*

To the N. of the Stiperstones is the valley of the Rea, and a gradually-diminishing series of hills, which merge into the valley of the Severn between Welshpool and Shrewsbury. Generally speaking, the districts N. and E. of the Severn, which cuts Shropshire into two tolerably equal divisions, are of English character, although the surface is repeatedly interrupted by sudden upthrows of trap, such as the Wrekin and Haughmond Hill. The former is a curved ridge, of somewhat ungainly shape, but with beautiful wood-fringed sides, and sends off to the N. lower spurs to Lilleshall and Donnington, and to the S. those of Coalbrook Dale. Between Wellington and the Cheshire border (the course of the Great Western Railway to Nantwich) is the basin of the Tern, a level, richly-cultivated district, broken only by the wooded heights of Hawkstone. The same character of surface is maintained as far as Oswestry, where the ground begins to rise again, the outposts of the great mountain-country of Merionethshire and Denbighshire, which at Sweeny Hill and Llynclys afford scenery of considerable beauty. One great characteristic of the Shropshire plain should be mentioned, viz., its *meres*, some of which are sufficiently large to justify their being called lakes. They are to be found in great numbers, scarcely a parish or gentleman's park being without them. The water-basin of Shropshire is altogether that of the Severn and its tributaries. That noble river itself, in its course through the county, passes through great variety of scenery: from the stately, placid stream between Shrewsbury and Cressage, gliding through rich pasture-land, to the fretted rapid between the wooded heights of Coalbrook Dale and Benthall Edge, during which passage its elevation is reduced some 40 feet. The Rea and the Tern are the two principal tributaries in the northern part of the county, the south being watered by the Oney, the Corve, and the Teme, the latter of which does not join the Severn for a considerable distance after it has emerged from Shropshire.

The geology of Shropshire is still more diversified than the scenery, and is of the highest interest to the scientific observer, who may read from its stone volume the condition of the very earliest rocks that form the crust of the earth. Thanks to the labours of Sir Roderick Murchison, the late Mr. Salter, Professor Ramsay, and that hardworking body of local geologists which compose the Woolhope Club, these intricate decipherings have been clearly made out, so that he who runs may read. In the Longmynd we have the representation of the Cambrian rocks, forming, as

it were, the axis upon which the more recent Silurian strata were deposited. It forms a range of deeply-ravined mountains, varying in height from 1400 to 1600 feet, and standing boldly out from the neighbouring hills. The lowest beds are formed of "schists, or clay-slates, with minute layers of Silurian limestone, interrupted by bosses of eruptive trap-rock, and overlaid by a vast and regular series of hard purple, greenish, and gray schistose flagstones, often finely laminated and ripple-marked." For years and years the bottom rocks of the Longmynd were considered as utterly lifeless, and were pointed to as the zone at which all life, even of the most minute description, ceased; but the diligent researches of the late Mr. Salter revealed at last the presence of annelid burrows, analogous to the lobworm of the present day. The vast thickness of these rocks was considered by Professor Ramsay to be 26,000 feet; but Mr. Salter, from subsequent examinations, believed that this computation should be reduced one-half, owing to the doubling of the strata upon themselves. One great feature of the Longmynd is the transverse dells, or "gutters," as they are locally called, the origin of which has given rise to much discussion: some geologists considering that they are the work of river-excavation, while others hold that they are due to the action of the sea. The Stiperstones, to the W. of the Longmynd, are marked by a ridge of quartzose rocks on their summit, which denotes the division between the *Lingula Flags* on the E. slopes and the *Llandeilo* beds on the W. The former are the equivalents of the Tremadoc beds of North Wales; but, as regards the latter, Mr. Salter considered that the rocks immediately on the W. of the Stiperstones were rather of Arenig than Llandeilo age. At all events, whatever they are, they appear to constitute the natural base of the Llandeilo rocks of the Shelve and Corndon district. These upper and lower Llandeilo rocks extend over the remaining portion of Shropshire into Montgomeryshire, interrupted only by the outburst of the trap-rocks of Corndon Hill, which have caused beds of volcanic ash to be interposed between strata containing organic remains. On the W. side of the Longmynd, therefore, is a regular sequence of Silurian strata; but on the E. a different state of things prevails. Here the Lingula and Llandeilo beds are absent, while the *Caradoc* occupies the ground, in the centre of which rise the igneous chains of Ragleath, Hope Bowdler, Caer Caradoc, and Lawley, which stand upon a line of upheaval marked by one of the largest faults in England. By this fault the upper strata have been cut off from the lower, and the Caradoc has been deposited on the edge of the Cambrian. From hence these rocks extend northwards beyond the valley of the Severn above Buildwas; southwards, to the valley of the Teme and occupying a portion of that of the Oney, where they are seen with the overlying May Hill, or *Llandovery* rocks. These latter extend to Buildwas and the base of the Wrekin, and are observable also at Hope, reposing unconformably on rounded bosses of trap and Llandeilo rock. Another small patch of Llandovery rock is seen at Linley and Norbury, as well as on the E. flank and the S. extremity of the Longmynd, seeming as though the Longmynd had been an island, on the slopes of which these conglomerates had been thrown down from the débris of existing rocks.

Overlying the Caradoc and Llandovery beds is the *Wenlock*, forming a line of hills that run diagonally across Shropshire from the Severn at Coalbrook Dale to near Ludlow. Coalbrook Dale itself is scooped out of Wenlock Shale, and its entrance into the Severn valley is guarded by Lincoln Hill, also Wenlock limestone, with carboniferous measures reposing on it.

On the S.E. slopes of Wenlock Edge are the Upper and Lower *Ludlow*, separated by the Aymestry limestone, which is well developed near Stokesay, but thins out towards Wenlock. To the Ludlow beds succeed the *Downton* sandstone and the *Old Red*, the latter of which occupies the area between Corve Dale and a line drawn S. from Bridgnorth through Leasowes, Old Hay, and Harpswood. The cornstone beds form notably good wheat-land. Southwards, the Old Red is continuous with that of Herefordshire interrupted only by the Clee Hills. To the N. and W. of Wenlock Edge it has been a good deal denuded and broken up, leaving only some isolated patches, such as Clun Forest. As in Herefordshire, the Old Red of Shropshire is of great interest to the geologist, from the frequency and variety of fish remains.

The *carboniferous* measures, though collectively occupying no very large area, are interesting from the character and relations of the subordinate beds. The *Shrewsbury* coal-field extends in a narrow strip, in shape something like a syphon, from the base of Haughmond Hill to Alberbury, on the banks of the upper Severn, a distance of 18 m., and has the peculiarity of possessing neither millstone-grit nor mountain-limestone, the coalmeasures resting directly on the Silurian rocks. Superficially, it is overlaid by Lower Permian strata, surmounted, as at Alberbury and Cardeston by a remarkable stratified breccia, composed of angular fragments of white quartz and carboniferous limestone, cemented by calcareo-ferruginous paste."—*Hull.* The coal-field is chiefly remarkable for the presence of a band of estuarine limestone, with freshwater shells, which is curiously persistent over a large area, and is always found associated with the upper coalmeasures. As a coal-field the Shrewsbury field is valueless. The same may be said of the *Lebotwood* field, which extends from the base of Caer Caradoc to the north side of the Long-mynd. The *Coalbrook Dale* field is very different, both in interest and value. It is an irregular triangle in form, having its most northerly point at Lilleshall, its most southerly at Coalport, and its base along the valley of the Severn. On the W. it is bounded by the fault which lets in the New Red, and on the E. by a narrow strip of Permian. Coalbrook Dale itself, as has been observed, is scooped out of Wenlock shale; but the Lightmoor hollow, up which the railway has been carried, is excavated in the lower coalmeasures, which are faulted down. This Lightmoor fault, traverses the coalfield from N. to S., and has a downthrow of about 100 yards, and to the W. of it the coal-beds are almost exhausted. E. of these coalmeasures, Earl Granville has sunk successful shafts through the Permian rocks, and the coal has been found in regular sequence, though in other parts of the field they disappear or change their character within a very short space. According to Mr. Hull, the area of the basin

is 28 square m., containing 27 ft. of workable coal, which, at the rate that it is now being exhausted, will soon come to an end, unless fresh extensions are made under the Permian or New Red.

The *Forest of Wyre* coalfield is another of the unproductive ones, although superficially of great size. It extends from the northern end of the Abberley hills, near Stourport, in Worcestershire, to several miles beyond Bewdley and Cleobury Mortimer, narrowing at its northern end to a thin strip bordering the west bank of the Severn. The coalmeasures repose on the Old Red, and are overlaid by thick Permian shale. The beds belonging to the upper measures are, generally speaking, not of much value, and vary in number from one workable seam (at Arley) to three (near Cleobury). A sinking at Shatterford of 450 yards met with a few beds of poor coals, and finally terminated in a mass of greenstone. The coalfield of the *Clee Hills* is particularly interesting, from the fact of its having been pierced by an outburst of basalt, which has spread over it, and forms the basaltic head of the Titterstone Clee. The measures, two or three in number, are nearly horizontal, and the shafts by which they are reached pierce the basaltic strata. It is curious that of all these coalfields, none of the beds rest on the grit or limestone, owing to their absence. In the case of the Clees, the coals rest on the Old Red, but on the N. and W. sides of the hills are both grit and limestone, the latter, at Oreton and Farlow, being the equivalents of the yellow sandstone, and abounding in fish remains. The carboniferous strata of Shropshire should not be dismissed without mention of Sweeny Hill, near Oswestry, which comes within the geographical pale of the county, though geologically it forms a portion of the Flintshire basin. The millstone grit here is unusually interesting, from its fossiliferous character, a very unusual feature in this formation.

To the coal measures succeeds the *Permian*, which is of some economic value in Shropshire, on account of its fringing the coalfields. To the E. of Coalbrook Dale these beds have been successfully pierced down to the coalmeasures. The breccia which borders the Shrewsbury coalfield is considered by Mr. Hull to be the remnant of an old shingle beach, composed of carboniferous and Silurian rocks. The district between Shrewsbury and Haughmond Hill consists of a thick Permian deposit of red ferruginous clay, interspersed with boulders, and out of this plain rises Haughmond Hill itself, a compact mass of uninterrupted greenstone traceable to Uffington, and flanked by dark purple Cambrian grit.

The *New Red*, or Triassic, occupies nearly all the remaining area of the county, including the district E. of the Severn, between Bridgnorth and Wolverhampton, and that between Shrewsbury, Ellesmere, Newport, and Market Drayton.

Bridgnorth is the best locality for studying the new red, very fine sections being met with in the conglomerate, or pebble bed. Between the eruptive bosses of Haughmond and the Wrekin is the Triassic basin of the Tern, which Miss Eyton believes to have been an ancient lake-basin, denuded by glacial and marine action. The beds are those of the lower

Bunter, though the banks of the river are lined by thick deposits of shingle.

There is a small pear-shaped patch of *Lias* between Wem and Audlem, extending for a short distance into Cheshire. The *eruptive* rocks have already been mentioned in the respective districts which they have influenced, such as the Clee Hills, Corndon Mountain, the Caradoc ranges, Haughmond Hill, and the Wrekin, with the low line of trap hills extending by Ketley, Donnington Wood, and Lilleshall. These latter are co-extensive with the line of fault that separates the Bunter sandstone from the basin of Coalbrook Dale.

The geologist will find Salop an admirable district for studying the phenomena of the *drift gravels*, sands, and clays which in the Severn valley particularly attain great importance. The glacial drift of Strethill, at the entrance of Coalbrook Dale, proves that at that era Wenlock Edge was the coast line, and the Severn valley a marine strait. All the way down to Bridgnorth there are terraces of gravel and shingle. The basin of the Tern, too, shows deposits of low-level gravel, dating from the time when the Weald Moors were a lake.

The geologist visiting Shropshire should study Sir R. Murchison's 'Siluria,' Prestwich's 'Coalbrook Dale' (Trans. Geol. Soc.), the 'Transactions of the Woolhope Field Club,' Eyton's 'Denudation of Shropshire,' &c.

Localities interesting to the Geologist.

The *Longmynd.*—Cambrian rocks at Church Stretton, Carding-mill section. Arenicolites.

Stiperstones.—Quartzites and Lingula flags, with fossils.

Shelve.—Lower and Upper Llandeilo beds.

Corndon Mountain.—Trap upthrow, interspersed with fossiliferous beds and volcanic ashes.

Lower Silurians (all fossiliferous) at *Rorrington*, *Snailbeach*, *Middletown*, &c.

All this district can be best explored by staying at the Gravel Inn.

Caradoc beds at *Cardington*, *Chatwall*, and *Soudley*.

Caradoc of *Marshbrook*, *Acton Scott*, and *Minton*.

Oney Valley (Craven Arms).—Caradoc strata overlaid by Llandovery rocks. Beds at *Horderley* and *Cheney Longville*.

Wenlock shales and limestone at *Coalbrook Dale*. *Benthall Edge* and *Wenlock Edge* very fossiliferous.

Ludlow Rocks and Bone-bed, Downton Sandstone near *Ludlow*, *Mary Knoll*, *Leintwardine*, *Pedwardine* (star fishes), &c.

Section from Wenlock to Old Red at *Linley*.

Old Red Cornstones, with Pteraspis, Cephalaspis, and Eurypterus near *Ludlow*, *Whitbatch*, *Hopton*, *Bouldon*, *Downton*.

Yellow Sandstone at *Farlow*, plants, and fish remains.

Mountain Limestone at *Oreton*, with fish teeth.

Mountain Limestone at *Sweeney Hill*.

Millstone grit (fossiliferous) at *Llynclys*.

Clee Hills.—Coalmeasures, overlaid by Basalt.
Coalbrook Dale.—Coalmeasures and ironstones; very productive in coal fossils.
Shrewsbury Coalfield, near Pontesbury, with freshwater limestone.
Freshwater Limestone, with Cypris, at *Linley*.
Permian rocks, bordering the E. of the Coalbrook Dale field.
Permian breccia at *Alberbury* and *Cardeston*.
New Red of *Bridgnorth*.
Lias between *Wem* and *Audlem*.
Drift (glacial) at *Strethill*, near Buildwas.
River terraces and gravel drifts at *Arley*.
Low-level gravels at *Crudgington*, and the valley of the *Tern*.

II.—CHESHIRE.

The chance traveller by rail from Crewe to Birkenhead, during his progress through Cheshire will, generally speaking, carry away with him a low estimate of its scenic beauty and interest; but for all that, there is much in the county that is charmingly picturesque, although it lies somewhat out of the beaten track of tourists, and requires searching for.

Cheshire may be described as a great plain, set in a frame of high ground, which in many localities offers views of a high order, although the component parts are not on a large scale. But even the plain, though exceedingly level, contains all the pleasant and sunny features of English pastoral life; while nowhere is the view so circumscribed as not to be relieved by the distant hills, which, if not so rich in the peculiar treasures of the plain, possesses others of different kind and value. To the E. a wild elevated district separates Cheshire from Derby and Staffordshire, extending from the valley of the Goyt, and forming the rugged country of Macclesfield Forest and Shutlingslow, to the S. of which the line is continued by Cloud Hill, Congleton Edge, and Mow Cop. The southern portion of Cheshire is continuous with the fertile pastures of Shropshire, but the western setting of the frame is furnished by the Peckforton range, and the high grounds that mark the course of the Dee. The Delamere Forest, one of the prettiest alternations of hill and woodland to be found in England, is almost the only break in the great central plain, and even this soon merges into the hills and defiles that fringe the Mersey estuary from Alvanley to Frodsham and Runcorn, and gradually die away as the Lancashire border is approached near Bowdon. Cheshire possesses two outlying districts, those of Wirral and Longdendale, which, as seen on the map, look very much like the respective handles of the casket. Nevertheless, they are extremely unlike each other, Wirral being marked by a tolerably uniform level, broken only by the hillocks of Bidston and

Storeton, while Longdendale is characterised by the lofty hills and moorlands of the Pennine range.

With the exception of the Dee, which, though it enters the sea after a short course through Cheshire, is properly a Welsh rather than a Cheshire river, the water basin is entirely formed by the millstone grit plateau that bounds the North Staffordshire and Derbyshire coalfields. From its recesses issue the Tame and the Goyt, which, with their united waters, form the commerce-laden bosom of the Mersey. From hence, also, rise the Bollin, the Wheelock, and the Dane, the two latter helping to swell the volume of the Weaver, which, rising in the Shropshire plain, has a somewhat stagnant, though very valuable career, through the salt-bearing districts.

The oldest rocks that enter into the geological composition of the county belong to the carboniferous formation, and are chiefly *millstone grit*, with their subordinate beds. The *limestone* is principally represented by the Yoredale rocks that form the ridges of Bosley Minn and its neighbourhood, and are again seen further north at Staleybridge and the Saddleworth valley, where they are 2000 feet thick. On the N.W. side of Mow Cop the shale and limestone crop out at Newbold Astbury, the effects of an anticlinal line that runs along the ridge. To the N. are the high grounds of Macclesfield Forest, extending as far as Longdendale and into Yorkshire. The conical hill of Shutlingslow, the bold elevation of Cloud Hill, and the rugged escarpment of Congleton Edge, are all formed of different beds of these grits, which, as they approach Yorkshire, are developed on a large scale, though the scenery is not so varied.

There are four different beds of grit, with shales between each. The whole series is seen at Mottram, 3000 feet thick, but in their course southward they thin out more or less, until they disappear altogether in Staffordshire. The second bed cannot be traced further south than Shutlingslow, but at Cloud Hill the first, third, and fourth are seen,—the first, known as the Rough Rock, and forming the base of the coalmeasures; while to the third the hill owes its massive character. Immediately on the other side of Congleton Edge is the most northerly limit of the North Staffordshire coalfield, known as the Biddulph trough, which is formed by two beds of grit passing underneath the coalmeasures, and cropping out on the Edge and Mow Cop.

The *Coalmeasures* that form the southern portion of the Cheshire, or more properly the Lancashire coal-field, repose on the Rough Rock, and are worked between Stockport and Macclesfield to within half-a-mile of the latter town. They are here superficially covered by the Boulder clay, and soon pass under the river, taking a N.W. dip and overlaid by the Lower New Red and drift. In the neighbourhood of Macclesfield the collieries are not of so much importance as they are nearer to the Lancashire border, where some of the pits, and notably that of Dukinfield, are the deepest in England. The carboniferous beds are much disturbed all through the district. The valley of the Goyt itself is formed by a synclinal line towards which the coal-beds dip E. and W. An anticlinal passes between Mellor and Marple, and can be traced as far as Forest

Chapel, where it splits into two, the coal-beds rising towards it from the Goyt trough on the E. and the Cheshire plain on the W. One branch of this saddle passes to the E. of Shutlingslow, which is capped with millstone grit and shows the limestone cropping out on the N.E. The other runs down S. to Cloud Hill and Mow Cop, where it exposes the shales at Newbold Astbury as before mentioned. It finally disappears at Madeley, where the Bunter sandstone wraps round the extremity of the Potteries coal-field.

With the exception of a small portion of that pear-shaped *Lias* patch between Wem and Audlem, and some *Permian* beds at Norbury, near Stockport, the whole of the remainder of Cheshire consists of the Upper Saliferous Trias, or *Keuper beds*, and the underlying Bunter sandstone—the intermediate Muschelkalk being entirely wanting in this county. The water-stones (Lower Keuper) are seen 2 m. S. of Macclesfield in close contact with the lower coalmeasures, and also in the course of the Bollin between Quarry Bank and Bowdon.

A considerable dislocation runs from Leek in Staffordshire past Bosley to Rosthern and Lymm, forming the N.E. boundary of the Cheshire salt-field. Mr. G. W. Ormerod considers it probable that Rosthern Mere is situated on this line, and is perhaps the result of it. To the S. of Cheshire the Upper Red Marls extend along the base of Congleton Edge and Mow Cop, where they are in contact with the carboniferous limestone, and thence continue southwards to Madeley and Audlem, though much covered by drift. The district between Malpas (at the S.W. corner of the Peckforton Hills) and Congleton, is a trough or broad valley of gypseous and saliferous beds of the Keuper—in other words the Great Cheshire Salt Field—extending thence to Northwich and embracing all the principal salt-works which lie more or less near the banks of the rivers Weaver and Wheelock. The most easterly place where salt has been found is at Lawton, on the Staffordshire border, where the gypseous beds abut on the coal. The following are some of the heights compared with the sea-level at which salt has been found (Ormerod, 'Geol. Soc. Journal'):—

Lawton ..	Rock-salt	290	feet above sea-level.
Northwich ..	"	55	"
Winsford ..	"	90	"
Marston ..	"	27	"
Wheelock ..	Brine	3	below
" ..	"	93	above
Middlewich ..	"	120	"
Frodsham ..	"	250	"

This is sufficient to show that the district is traversed by great dislocations. The rock-salt occurs for the most part in two beds. At Winsford the upper bed is 120 ft. thick, and at Northwich about 90, the salt being impure in each case. Below it is a bed of indurated clay called "Stone" (33 to 56 ft.), succeeded by the second bed, the lower portion of which is the great repository from which the rock-salt supplies are drawn. To the N. of Northwich, salt is not found further than Budworth and Pickmere, both of which pools are probably due to the subsidences of the surface from the melting of the salt-beds underneath.

To the E. of Cheshire, the same fault which cuts off the salt-field has taken great effect at Alderley Edge, on one side of which are seen the Lower Keuper beds with copper-bearing strata, and on the other the Bunter sandstone. The latter is seen also at Timperley—along the valley of the Bollin—and again underlying the terrace ridge from Hoo Green by Leigh to Lymm, and on to Hill Cliff near Warrington. From thence it fringes the Red Marl all round by Runcorn, Frodsham, nearly to Tarporley, forming the ranges of the Peckforton Hills, Beeston Rock, and the rising ground on the banks of the Dee.

In Wirral the Upper Red and variegated sandstones of the Bunter are frequently seen, overlaid unconformably by the Keuper, though they have evidently suffered much denudation prior to the deposition of the latter. These beds are of peculiar interest to the fossil collector from the occurrence of Cheirotherium footsteps all through the district. Mr. Ormerod estimates the thickness of the Trias in Cheshire as follows;—

	Feet.
Gypseous and Saliferous beds	700
Waterstones	400
Bunter Sandstone	600
	1700

Few counties afford better opportunities for studying the *drift* than Cheshire—at least in its eastern portion. All over the S. the Triassic strata are more or less covered by it, but the level character of the country does not offer many sections. However the ravine-like nature of the district round Macclesfield and Stockport shows the boulder clay and valley gravels containing shells, to great perfection.

Localities interesting to the Geologist.

Limestone and shales of *Newbold Astbury*.

Millstone grit at *Mow Cop* and *Cloud Hill*.

Coalmeasure shales, with goniatites at *Dukinfield*, on the banks of the Tame.

Keuper beds (copper-bearing) at *Alderley Edge* and *Mottram St. Andrew's*.

Triassic strata at *Lymm*, *Daresbury*, *Weston* near Runcorn, *Tarporley*, and *Storeton Hill*, all containing foot-tracks of Cheirotherium Kaupii.

Salt-mines at *Northwich*, *Marston*, and *Winsford*.

Drift (boulder clay and gravels) at *Macclesfield*, where great numbers of shells were found at the cemetery.

Drift beds at *Bredbury*, near Stockport (marine shells).

"Till" at *Hyde*.

Pleistocene deposits near *Birkenhead*.

Forest beds at *Leasowes*.

Glaciation marks at *Bidston Hill*.

The Flora of Mid-Cheshire is intermediate between that of the N. and S. counties of Britain. East of Macclesfield that of the high grounds is akin to the West Riding of Yorkshire, while in the west the botany of Wirral is more various and southern in character. The marl-pits and inland meres of Mid-Cheshire render it almost *sui generis* for aquatic plants and reeds.

II.—INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES.

I.—SHROPSHIRE.

Although Shropshire cannot be included amongst the manufacturing counties, it contains within its boundaries a very fair share of the economic riches of the earth, about half of its population being engaged in specific trades and pursuits, while the other half is supported by agriculture.

The metalliferous mines are nearly all found in the mountainous portion of the county, between Bishop's Castle and Minsterley. The district which yields them is entirely occupied by Lower Silurian rocks (p. ix) of Lingula and Llandeilo age, and has long been known for its mineral wealth. "In 1190, Richard I. granted a charter conveying the 'Forest of Tenefrestanes' to the Baron of Caus; and there are so many references to the lead found in the neighbourhood, as to prove that the veins were extensively worked in the 13th and 14th centuries. In Eyton's 'Antiquities of Shropshire,' cartloads of lead are spoken of; but whether lead-ore or pure lead is not stated, though it is certain that smelting operations were performed near the mines."—*Morton.* Mining implements of Roman age, together with a pig of lead, were found near Snead, at the bottom of a trench called the Roman Vein, which is the most valuable vein in the district.

In 1871 the number of *Lead* mines in Shropshire was 8, producing nearly 7672 tons of lead-ore and lead in proportion. Of these the principal and most prolific was the Snailbeach Mine, near Minsterley, which yielded nearly half the total amount.

Copper is not worked to any extent, there being only 2 copper-mines in Shropshire: viz., at Westcott and Clive, on the N. side of Grinshill. Copper-mining in Shropshire has been at a very low ebb since 1870. It is worked in horizontal beds in the Triassic strata as at Alderley, Cheshire (Rte. 13), and not in lodes as at Cornwall. In addition to the lead, the Stiperstone mines yield a small quantity of zinc-ore and barytes, the other productions being only valuable to the mineralogist. They consist of quartz, chalcedony, calcite, witherite, malachite, redruthite, galena, minium, &c.

Iron ore, in the shape of argillaceous carbonate and blackband, is largely worked in the neighbourhood of Coalbrook Dale, Madeley, Lilleshall, and

the coal-basin generally. In 1871, 415,972 tons were raised, of the value of 57,083*l*. It is all used in the ironworks, and none is sent out of the county. Shropshire supplies a very fair proportion of the *pig-iron* that is sent into the market. Out of 25 furnaces there were in blast, in 1871, 19, which produced annually 129,467 tons. The works principally belong to the Companies of Coalbrook Dale, Madeley, and Old Park. Attached to them are 218 puddling-furnaces and 28 rolling-mills.

The process of iron manufacture in Shropshire is so similar to that of other places, that it is needless to describe it in detail. It will be sufficient to notice that the Coalbrook Dale Works have always had a specialty for fine castings of extreme delicacy, a good example of which was seen in the iron gates at the Exhibition of 1851.

As regards the capabilities of the Shropshire iron and coal field, the north-eastern portion of it will be found to be now most productive, owing to the extension of mining-operations underneath the Permian and New Red sandstone. The district of Coalbrook Dale is beginning to show signs of exhaustion. There are 59 collieries at present working in Shropshire. From these collieries about 1,350,000 tons of coal are annually raised.

The Forest of Wyre contains near the western side, as far as it has been explored, 3 beds of coal—1 ft. 10 in., 2 ft., and 4 ft. in thickness respectively. These are all in the upper measures. Both this coalfield and those of the Clee Hills, Leebotwood, and Shrewsbury fields are scarcely worth talking about as a commercial industry. The Coalbrook Dale field is 28 square miles in area, and possesses 27 ft. of coal in 1200 ft. of coal measures. Mr. Hull (writing in 1859) computed that the original quantity of coal in it was 43,000,000 tons, and that the total quantity worked out and lost was about 28,000,000; leaving for future use only 15,000,000, which would be exhausted in about 20 years from that time. This limit is now reached; but the opening of one or two collieries by Lord Granville, under the New Red, will avail to lengthen their duration of existence.

The minor manufacturing industries of Shropshire are few, and include pottery and tobacco-pipes, a very old-established trade at Broseley; an important encaustic tile manufactory, carried on by Messrs. Maw, at Benthall; as also one of draining-pipes at Newport; flannels at Oswestry and Shrewsbury; carpets at Bridgnorth. There is much valuable building stone in the county. That of Grinshill, between Shrewsbury and Wem, on the New Red sandstone, has been largely used for churches, public buildings, and gentlemen's seats. Limestone of good quality is quarried at Oreton, and valuable road-metal is obtained from the "Dhu Stone" of the Clee Hills.

The county of Salop, however important may be its several branches of manufacture, ranks rather amongst the agricultural counties of England, and in this respect more as a grazing than a corn-growing district. For this, the large extent of New and Old Red sandstone that prevails, renders it fitting, the land of the W., approaching the Welsh borders, being hilly and poor. Amongst the local peculiarities of the cattle, it may be mentioned that the Bishop's Castle neighbourhood is celebrated for a good breed of cattle of dark-red colour, whilst the district known as the Forest of Clun

yields good mountain ponies, and a small breed of sheep, the mutton of which is highly prized by bonvivants.

According to the Agricultural Statistics of the Board of Trade, Shropshire consisted in 1878 of 841,167 acres, supporting a population of about 250,000. Of this acreage 705,215 acres were under crops of all kinds, 165,496 under corn, 59,960 under green crops, and 390,854 under grass. About 136,465 cattle, 494,340 sheep, and 67,435 pigs were reared. There were about 30,000 horses.

The corn-crops consist of wheat, barley, oats, beans, and peas; and the principal green-crop is that of swedes.

II.—CHESHIRE

may fairly be divided into half manufacturing and half agricultural interest, and possesses almost a monopoly of two of England's most valuable industries—salt and silk. As a metalliferous county, its only product is copper, worked somewhat extensively in the Keuper formation of the New Red sandstone at Alderley Edge, where it is found not in lodes, as in Cornwall, but in horizontal cuperiferous beds. From the 'Mining Statistics' we learn that these Alderley mines yielded, in 1871, 8608 tons of copper-ore of the value of 34,000*l*. The ultimate quantity of copper obtained was 172 tons, of the value of 23,570*l*. In addition to the copper, occur ores of cobalt, manganese, carbonate of lead, galena, barytes, and oxide of iron. The carbonate of lead is in the shape of crystals, disseminated through the rock, and is separated from the matrix by maceration and washing when it is ready for smelting. The cobalt and manganese are found and treated in the same way, and the water used in the working of them is allowed to settle, when the red or yellow ochre, of which it is full, subsides and is then smelted for the iron that it contains. "The process by which the copper is separated from the sand, and thrown down in a metallic state, is very beautiful, and probably the only one by which the result could be accomplished successfully in a commercial point of view, as its average percentage of ore is not more than 2·5. The rock is macerated in a solution of muriatic acid, then filtered; and the 'copper liquor,' of a rich deep green, is pumped into reservoirs of wood. Into these old scrap-iron is thrown, and the acid, leaving the copper, seizes the iron, which it dissolves, while the copper is precipitated in a metallic state. On the completion of the process the residuum, consisting of 80 parts of copper and 20 of iron, is collected and sent in sacks to St. Helen's and Swansea to be smelted."—*Hull.*

In a small degree, and very unprofitably, copper has been worked in the Bickerton hills.

As a coal-producing district, Cheshire does not rank high, although a very considerable portion of the county is occupied by the coalmeasures, extending from Wildboar Clough, by Macclesfield and Stockport, into Lancashire. There are no iron-works at all within this area, and the coals

raised from the 29 collieries, which in 1871 amounted to 975,000 tons, are principally used in the factories and local consumption. Generally speaking the collieries are but of small size; but at Dukinfield there is one of the extraordinary depth of 2150 ft. To scientific men this pit was specially interesting, for in it was taken a series of observations as to temperature at increasing depths of mines. It was found that 51° was the invariable temperature throughout the year at a depth of 17 ft., and that for every 83·2 ft. there was an increase of 1°.

Salt.—The geological features of the salt district of the Triassic or New Red sandstone are detailed in page xv. The salt trade is altogether confined to a few localities, there being 32 salt proprietors in Northwich and neighbourhood; 30 in Over and Winsford; 3 in Sandbach. In these are included salt manufacturers as well as rock-salt owners. For description of mines at Northwich, the tourist must refer to Rte. 20.

The largest trade by far is carried on in the white salt, the ordinary household salt of consumption, which is evaporated from the brine. The brine is first pumped into a reservoir, and then taken by pipes into salt-pans, which vary in size from 40 to 100 ft. in length, and are separated from each other by pathways to allow the workmen to stir up and rake off the salt.

Underneath these are furnaces, which are capable of regulation as to the heat, and thus producing the various qualities of salt required. Fishing-salt, which crystallizes in large cubical crystals, is obtained by a heat of 100°, so as to cause great slowness of evaporation; for common coarse salt a heat of 130° is obtained, and for lump salt a heat of 225° is required, so as to produce boiling agitation, and cause the crystals of muriate of soda to fall to the bottom. As soon as these processes are finished the heat is diminished, and the salt raked out and put into tubs to be drained, and then dried in stove-houses. "It is estimated that every pint of brine contains 6 ounces of salt, and to make 100 tons of salt about 60 tons of coal are required." The trade of Northwich and Winsford is the manufacture of salt by the evaporation of the water from the brine. In 1875 it is calculated 1,500,000 tons of salt were produced, 1,000,000 for export, 350,000 for chemical works, 100,000 for agricultural purposes, 50,000 for domestic use. There were in that year 1261 salt-pans, employing over 3000 men in Cheshire; 150 more are engaged in rock-salt mining.—*Encycl. Brit., art.* '*Cheshire.*' The make of salt in the Cheshire districts is about six times as large as that from Worcestershire.

With *building stone* Cheshire is very fairly supplied, the chief, indeed the only quarries being in the New Red Sandstone, the millstone grit and coalmeasure sandstones. Of the former the best known are the quarries at Bidston, Flaybrick, Weston, Frodsham, and Storeton. Mow Cop and Congleton Edge yield a first-class stone from the millstone grit; Kerridge and Five-ashes from the coalmeasures.

In *agriculture* Cheshire has long held a high position for the richness of its pastures and its splendid dairy farms, the average size of which is from 50 to 150 acres. "The effect of the dairy husbandry may be observed all through the county. Land is ploughed in order to bear winter fodder for cattle, and to improve pastures overrun with cows. The sheep husbandry,

which is so profitable to the farmers in other counties, is scarcely known in Cheshire. Sheep do not go well with cows, as they pick out the finest herbage before it is long enough for the cows to graze. Some few are kept to consume the grasses which the cows refuse; they are seldom kept over the year, and are sold as soon as any profit is realized. Grass-land is considered so much more valuable than arable, that most leases contain a clause that not more than one-fourth of the farm shall be ploughed. A soil which is rather stiff is considered the best for grass, especially if there be a substratum of marl, which is the case in many parts of the county. A very rich loam is not considered so good for pastures where cheese is made as one less fertile, as it is apt to make the cheese heave."

The county, which has a population of 561,201, contained, according to the Agricultural Statistics for 1878, 705,493 acres, of which 81,729 only were under corn, and 32,427 under green crops, the grass-land amounting to 355,700. Thus the percentage of corn crops only amounts to 19·0 of the whole. The number of cattle maintained is 155,750, being 27 per cent. to every 100 acres—116,426 sheep and 65,390 pigs. The total of horses = 22,897. The portion of the county which lies in proximity to the great cities and towns is valuable for market gardens, and immense quantities of vegetables are grown; the neighbourhood of Frodsham being famous for its potatoes, and Altrincham for its carrots and onions. The former, indeed, is so celebrated, that it is known as the Altrincham or greentop carrot.

Of manufactures, by far the most important is that of *silk*, which is almost a Cheshire specialty. In the towns at the north-east portion of the county, such as Stockport, Hyde, Dukinfield, Mottram, &c., cotton-spinning is the staple employment; but in Macclesfield, Congleton, and the villages surrounding, such as Sutton, Langley, Bollington, Rainow, &c., nearly all the population is devoted to silk, although the trade is not such a very old one, the first silk mill being established in Macclesfield only in 1756, and in Congleton still later. Silk in the state of cocoons is principally supplied to this country from Japan and China, though of late years the planting of mulberry-trees and the rearing of the silkworm has been largely carried on on the Continent, and is very soon likely to become an important branch of industry in England through the agency of the Silk Supply Association. Curiously enough, when it arrives in the raw state in England, it has to be sent to France or Italy to be reeled, there being no body of factory operatives who have hitherto been taught how to reel silk, although instruction in this necessary branch is likewise in contemplation. The raw silk, when properly reeled, consists of a delicate continuous thread formed by an aggregate of the fine silkworm filaments, and it becomes needful, before it can be made sufficiently hard for the purposes of the weaver, to give it into the hands of the silk *thrower*, or throwster. Many silk throwers are also silk manufacturers, but for a considerable period, and particularly when Spitalfields was the chief locale of the trade, it was a separate branch. The operation, which requires some complex machinery, consists in spinning and twisting the silk into a coherent and continuous thread. "In plain silk-weaving the process is much the

same as that for weaving woollen or linen, but the weaver is assisted by a machine for the even distribution of the warp, which frequently consists of 8000 separate threads in a width of 20 inches. Satin derives its lustre from the great proportion of the warp being left visible, and the piece being afterwards passed over heated cylinders. The pile, which constitutes the peculiarity of velvet, is produced by the insertion of short pieces of silk thread, which cover the surface so entirely as to conceal the interlacings of the warp and the weft."

The following is a brief epitome of the cotton and silk trades as found in Cheshire, which naturally give employment to a very large population:—

Calico printers ..	13	Stockport and neighbourhood.
Candlewick spinners	40	Nearly all at Stockport.
Carpet manufacturers	1	Wildboar Clough.
Cotton doublers ..	7	Stockport.
Cotton spinners ..	120	Stockport, Hyde, Dukinfield, Staley Bridge, &c.
Cotton manufacturers	66	Stockport.
Cotton waste spinner	1	Disley.
Cotton weaver ..	1	Staley Bridge.
Flock willower ..	1	Stockport.
Flax spinner	1	Stockport.
Fringe maker	1	Macclesfield.
Fustian cutters ..	17	All at Lymm.
Silk finisher	1	Macclesfield.
Silk manufacturers..	44	Macclesfield and Congleton.
Silk weavers	6	Macclesfield.
Silk printer	1	Macclesfield.
Silk spinners	2	Congleton.
Silk throwers	64	Congleton and Macclesfield.

These numbers do not imply that there are so many distinct mills and factories, as many silk manufacturers carry on the business of silk throwing, just as cotton manufacturers do that of spinning. The peculiarities of the cotton trade will be described under Lancashire, which has its separate Handbook.

III.—COMMUNICATIONS.

I.—SHROPSHIRE.

For an agricultural district few counties are better supplied with facilities for travelling than Salop, mainly owing to its being on the high road between South Wales and Lancashire on the one hand, London and North Wales on the other.

The Great Western and London and North-Western systems supply the county for the most part. Access from South Wales is given by the

jointly worked line of the *Hereford, Ludlow,* and *Shrewsbury.* From this a branch is thrown off (Great Western Railway) from *Wooferton,* to *Tenbury* and *Bewdley,* there joining the Severn valley. A second cross connection is given by the branch from *Craven Arms* to *Wenlock* and *Buildwas,* while to the W. runs from the same junction (Craven Arms) the short line to *Bishop's Castle,* and the important trunk rly. of the *Central Wales,* to Knighton, Llandrindod, Llandovery, Caermarthen, and Swansea. A direct route is thus opened from Manchester and Liverpool to the western parts of South Wales. The *Severn Valley* follows the course of that river from Worcester, or rather Hartlebury Junct., entering Shropshire at Bewdley, and running by Bridgnorth to Ironbridge and Shrewsbury. At Buildwas it is joined by the *Coalbrook Dale* and *Wellington* line, which, together with the *Wolverhampton, Wellington,* and *Shrewsbury* Rly., accommodates the Shropshire coalfield. The remainder of this busy district is served by the London and North-Western, a portion of which, the *Shropshire Union,* connects Stafford with Newport, Wellington, and Shrewsbury. A subsidiary branch of the same company bisects the coalfield to *Coalport,* near Ironbridge.

So much for the southern portion of the county; but once past Shrewsbury the two great systems diverge, each going its own way. The Great Western has a route to Manchester by the *Wellington, Market Drayton,* and *Nantwich* line, and on to *Chester* and *Birkenhead* through *Oswestry* (Gobowen Junc.) and *Chirk.* The London and North-Western line runs from Shrewsbury to *Wem, Whitchurch, Nantwich,* and *Crewe.* Another branch of the London and North-Western shortens by way of Malpas and Tattenhall the route between Whitchurch and Chester. At *Whitchurch* the *Cambrian* system, which is worked in harmony with the London and North-Western Company, commences by a line to *Ellesmere* and *Whittington,* thence to Oswestry and Aberystwith through Montgomeryshire. Another section of the same line runs direct from *Shrewsbury* to join the main line at *Welshpool,* throwing off a short branch to *Minsterley.* Another line, hitherto worked under difficulties, is called the *Shrewsbury, North Wales,* and *Potteries* Rly., and runs from Llanyblodwell to Shrewsbury, not having reached the Potteries yet.

Canals. — The local canals in Shropshire are: 1. The *Shrewsbury* canal, which starts from the Severn near that town, and runs N. of Wellington through the coal district to Coalport. The latter portion was the original Shropshire canal, the first ever made in the county. A branch is sent off from near Eyton, past Newport, to join the *Birmingham* and *Liverpool* canal, which is carried near the N.E. boundary to Market Drayton and Nantwich. The *Chester* and *Ellesmere* canal serves as a waterway to the N.W. corner, and is remarkable for the gigantic works on its course. Its different ramifications are these; "a branch passes northward near Ellesmere, Whitchurch, Nantwich, and the city of Chester to Ellesmere Port on the Mersey (Rte. 25); another in a S.E. direction, through the middle of Shropshire towards Shrewsbury on the Severn; and a third, in a south-westerly direction, by the town of Oswestry to the Montgomeryshire canal near Llanymynach—its whole extent, including

the Chester canal incorporated with it, being about 112 miles."—*Smiles.* Telford's greatest works on this canal were the Chirk aqueduct over the Ceiriog (Rte. 9), and Pontcysylltau over the Dee, near Llangollen. Telford was also the engineer of the Shrewsbury canal, the work of which was so far interesting that a new principle was adopted by him in his bridges. Writing in 1795, he says: "Although this canal is only 18 miles long, yet there are many important works in its course, several locks, a tunnel about half a mile long, and two aqueducts. For the most considerable of these I have just recommended an aqueduct of *iron*. It has been approved, and will be executed under my direction, upon a principle entirely new, and which I am endeavouring to establish with regard to the application of iron."

II.—CHESHIRE.

The systems that give railway accommodation to Cheshire are the London and North-Western, Great Western, Cheshire Midland, Midland, Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, and the North Staffordshire. The most important of them is the *London* and *North-Western*, which, entering the county near Crewe, its great manufacturing junction, sends radiations northwards like a fan, that on the right running to Alderley, Stockport, and Manchester, and sending off a short branch from Sandbach to *Northwich*. The middle line is the great trunk line between London and Scotland, and runs through the most fertile portion of Cheshire to Hartford Bridge and Warrington. A branch from Whitchurch by Tattenhall to Chester makes the shortest route from Shrewsbury to Chester. Its other branches are a short line from Acton to Northwich, and the direct Liverpool line from Preston Brook to Runcorn, where it crosses the Mersey (Rte. 17). The left wing of the fan is formed by the Chester and Holyhead, an equally important trunk line to Ireland. The same company have a branch from Stockport to Macclesfield, thus including the silk district in the carrying system. The Manchester and Buxton line enters the county on the extreme E., and has a course of a few miles from Whaley Bridge to Stockport. The Great Western obtains access to Manchester and Liverpool through Cheshire. It enters the county on the W. at Gresford, and at Chester bifurcates—to the N.W. running through the district of Wirrall to Birkenhead, where ferry boats are in constant activity to the opposite shore—to the N.E. to Frodsham and Warrington, whence the company has running powers over the London and North-Western rails to Manchester. Neither of these lines is confined to the Great Western Rly., but are jointly worked with the London and North-Western. There are two short branches on them; one to the little watering-place of Parkgate, the other from Sutton to Helsby, cutting off an angle, so that the passengers from Birkenhead to Manchester may save going round by Chester.

The *Cheshire Midland* principally accommodates the salt districts, which until of late years were without any railways at all. It commences at

Altrincham, where it takes up the running from a short line called the *Manchester South Junction* and *Altrincham*, and then plunges into the heart of Cheshire to Knutsford and Northwich, Delamere, Tarvin, and Chester. It thence runs to Winsford in one direction, to Winnington in another, and to Frodsham in a third, so that all the saline districts are put into direct communication with one another, as also with their port.

The *Midland* Company has only a short course through Cheshire. It approaches Manchester from Buxton, entering the county at Marple, and keeping close to the E. boundary, at the corner of which it joins the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Rly. The Midland obtains a share of the silk district traffic by a short branch from Marple, through Bollington and Macclesfield.

The *Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire*, is what we may term a border line. A portion of its main line from Manchester to Hull runs through the eastern handle of Cheshire, sending off a branch to Hyde and Stockport, and serving the factory districts of Mottram and Glossop. From Stockport it obtains an entry to Liverpool by means of a line through Cheadle, Lymm, Warrington, Widness, and Garston, the greater portion of which runs (as far as Warrington) on the S. bank of the Mersey. This rly. is, however, a sort of "highway of nations" as it is used also by the Midland, London and North-Western, and by the *North Staffordshire*, which finds its principal customers in the silk district. It starts from Crewe *en route* for the Potteries, but at Harecastle sends an important branch to the N. to Congleton and Macclesfield. By means of this line Manchester and Macclesfield obtain another and independent route to London. Last and least is the little *Hoylake* line, a local railwayette which brings the Liverpool business men from their offices to the seaside; but Birkenhead should not be passed over in connection with locomotion, without mention of its street tramways, which have there proved such a success, and are likely to be the pioneers of a great movement.

Canals.—The *Grand Trunk Canal*, before the age of railways one of the first means of communication that existed in Central England, enters Cheshire from Staffordshire, near Lawton or Harecastle, and thence traverses the salt districts of Wheelock, Winsford, and Northwich, to Preston Brook, where it joins the *Bridgewater Canal* system. This enters the county at Ashton near Stafford, and follows the course of the Mersey to Lymm. It leaves Warrington to the rt., and enters the high grounds in the North of Cheshire, forming a junction at Preston Brook with the Grand Trunk. It has its final termination at Runcorn, the scene of one of Brindley's finest works (Rte. 24). The *Mersey and Irwell* Canal is a short cut between Warrington and Runcorn, so as to obviate the windings of the river. On the whole, however, the most important and valuable water communication in Cheshire is the river Weaver. The surplus profits are paid to the country amounting to from £15,000 to £20,000 per annum.

The *Chester and Nantwich* Canal enters the county near Audlem, and runs to Chester, where it forms a junction with the Dee, and also with the *Dee and Mersey* Canal, the termination of which is Ellesmere Port on the Mersey. A branch is sent off to Middlewich, and another to Whitchurch.

The *Macclesfield* Canal starts from the Grand Junction at Harecastle, and runs to Congleton, Macclesfield, and Marple, where it unites with the *Peak Forest* Canal, between Whaley Bridge and Guide Bridge. It will be seen therefore that Cheshire is amply supplied with railway and canal accommodation.

IV.—HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES.

I.—SHROPSHIRE.

The history of Shropshire is of great interest to the antiquary on account of the abundant remains that are scattered over the county. The name of Salop appears to be of earlier derivation than that which is usually given, and perhaps may be derived from the Erse word *sa*, a stream, and *lub*, a loop—thus describing the situation of the peninsula upon which the town stands. "The customary names of the shire and county town appear to date from the beginning of the 11th centy. only, for Lappenberg mentions, on the authority of Ellis, that Scrob, a knight on the Welsh Marches, held lands under King Edward the Confessor in Hereford, Worcester, and Salop. No doubt he found it very desirable to restore and maintain the ancient fort on the hill at the stream top: very possibly he so enlarged and improved it, that it came to be called Scrobbesbyrig instead of Salopesbyrig; and it may be noticed that one pronunciation of the town's name, Shro'sbury, closely approximates to the knight's, and there is also a close resemblance between Scrobshire and Shropshire."—*Athenæum.*

The Severn appears to have been the dividing line between the British tribes of the Cornavii on the W. and the Ordovices on the E., while a portion of the southern district was inhabited by the Silures; but after the subjugation of the Celtic principalities by the Roman arms, the county was included in the province of Flavia Cæsariensis. There seems to be little doubt but that the victorious forces of Ostorius Scapula penetrated into Shropshire and finally overcame within its boundaries the British king Caractacus, although the actual site of the battle is *adhuc sub judice.* Of the Roman occupation we have most interesting traces, and particularly of the period of the decline of their tenancy in Britain. From its position as a border county Shropshire obtained from a very early date a reputation of being unsafe as a residence, on account of the exposure of its western border to the savage tribes of the Welsh mountains. It was, to cite a writer on land measurement of the time of Nerva, an "ager arcifinius," a border district, and from the necessity that existed of checking the encroachments of its wild neighbours, it became garnished with a series of forts, many of which in the Norman time were of great strength and importance. These border limits were called the Marches, and the Barons who held the properties were entitled Lords Marchers, who, says Camden, "exercised within their respective liberties a sort of Palatinate jurisdiction, and held courts of justice to determine controversies among their neighbours, and pre-

scribed for several privileges and immunities, one of which was that the King's writs should not run here in some causes. But notwithstanding that, whatever controversies arose concerning the right of Lordship or their extent, such were only determinable in the King's courts of justice. We find these styled formerly Marchiones de Marchiâ Walliæ, Marquises of the Marches of Wales, as appears by the 'Red Book' in the Exchequer, where we read that at the coronation of Queen Eleanor, consort to Henry III., these Lords Marchers of Wales, viz., John Fitz-Alan, Ralph de Mortimer, John de Monmouth, and Walter de Clifford, in behalf of the Marches, did claim in their right to provide silver spears and bring them to support the square canopy of purple silk at the coronation of the Kings and Queens of England."

Later on, the jurisdiction of the Marches assumed a much higher and more important character, it being considered as one of the rights and honours of the Princes of Wales to hold special Courts, either in their own persons or through their deputies, the Lords President of Wales. Ludlow became a royal residence and the centre of these Courts, which were held with great splendour until 1688, when the office of President was abolished. The 13th and 14th cents. were stirring ones for Shropshire, on account of the irruptions of the Welsh under Llewelyn and the insurgent Barons. Parliaments were held at Shrewsbury for the trial of Dafydd, the last native prince of Wales, and later on (temp. Richard II.) of Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, who was impeached by Henry of Bolingbroke, afterwards Henry IV. Owain Glyndwr was the last who troubled the peace of the county to any serious extent; but the battle of Shrewsbury (1403) terminated fatally for his hopes and those of the Earl of Northumberland.

During the Civil Wars Shropshire generally was a staunchly royalist county, and Charles I. had many occasions to feel grateful for contributions of men and money, and for personal shelter. The various incidents which make up the interest of the history of Shropshire will be found under their respective localities.

Of *Early Works*, such as circles, tumuli, &c., there are but few, and those few, as may naturally be expected, are to be found in the sequestered and hilly districts. There are some tumuli in the parish of Woolaston (Rte. 10), and one was opened near the ch. of Clungunford (Rte. 6).

Circles are found only on Corndon Mount (Rte. 5), viz., the Marsh Pool Circle, the Whetstones, and Mitchell's Fold, all grouped together. In their arrangement and probable foundation Mr. Hartshorne sees a great resemblance to Avebury.

Camps and earthworks are tolerably numerous, and are placed just where we should expect to find them, guarding defiles of valleys and the passages of rivers. The figures denote the routes under which they are mentioned:—

Route

3. Abdon Burf, near Ludlow. Date uncertain.
9. Belan Bank, Alberbury. British. Guarding the passage of the Vyrnwy.
9. Berth Hill, Baschurch. Anglo-Saxon.

Route

1. Bodbury Ring, Church Stretton. British.
1. Brockhurst, ditto.
5. Bury Ditches, Clun. Supposed by Mr. Wright to be of Saxon origin.
12. Bury Walls, Hawkstone. British.
1. Caer Caradoc, Church Stretton. } Both British.
5. Caer Caradoc, Knighton. }
9 Castell Brogyntyn, Oswestry. British.
1. Castle Ring, Church Stretton. British.
3. Caynham Camp, Ludlow. Anglo-Saxon.
3. Clee Burf, Ludlow. Uncertain.
6. Ditches, Wenlock. British.
8. Ebury Camp, Shrewsbury. Anglo-Saxon.
5. Habberley Camp, Minsterley. British.
3. Nordy Bank, Ludlow. Roman.
1. Norton Camp, Craven Arms. Roman.
9. Old Oswestry. British.
4. Quatford, Bridgnorth. Anglo-Saxon.
5. Snead Camp, } Bishop's Castle. British.
5. Simonds Castle, }
3. Titterstone Camp, Ludlow. Uncertain.
The Walls. Anglo-Saxon.
10. Woolaston. Anglo-Saxon.
7. Wrekin earthworks, Wellington. British.

Traces of the Roman occupation are obvious, not only in the camps marked as Roman, but in the magnificent remains of Uriconium (Wroxeter, Rte. 8), which are the most extensive of the kind in England. The other Salopian town of this era was Ruyton of the 11 Towns, at which antiquaries have placed the ancient Rutunium (Rte. 9); and there was another place called Uxacona or Uxiconium, about which they are not agreed, some placing it at Red Hill, some to the N.W. of Shiffnal, others at Oaken Gates. Wherever it was, it was an unimportant place. As Shropshire lay in the direct routes between Deva (Chester) on the north, and Isca Silurum (Caerléon) and Venta Silurum (Caerwent) in South Wales, several Roman roads ran across the county. The Watling Street entered it from the Staffordshire side, in its course from Pennocrucium (Penkridge) to Uxacona, while another branch ran southwards from Uriconium down the Church Stretton valley on its way to Magna (Kenchester) and Bravonium (near Leintwardine). The *Portway* (Rte. 1) was a British road between Caer Caradoc and Castle Ring, near Ratlinghope. *Offa's Dyke* was evidently a border line of Anglo-Saxon date, and is most clearly visible in the southern part of the county at Knighton, and the northern at Oswestry and Selattyn. Watt's Dyke is also observable near Oswestry.

Castles.—From its position on the Marches, Shropshire possessed a good many forts, although few of them rose to the dignity of a castle. Ludlow, however, is an exception, for in its history, extent, and grandeur, it yields

to very few in England. Nearly all of the Shropshire castles are of the same date.

Route
1. Acton Burnell. 13th centy.
9. Alberbury. Very slight traces.
10. Caus Castle. Norman.
5. Clun. Norman, supposed to be the "Garde Doloreux" of Sir Walter Scott.
6. Hopton.
1. Ludlow. Norman, with additions and alterations of Elizabethan date, and others still later.
12. Middle Castle. Temp. Edw. III.
10. Wattlesborough. Norman.
9. Whittington. Norman.

Of Shrawardime, Ellesmere, Knockin and Bishop's Castle, only the sites are left.

Ecclesiastical buildings are numerous and interesting, and especially the churches. By far the greater number are of Norman date, and present many beautiful details. The following are the monastic or conventual remains that are left, all, with the exception of Bromfield, in more or less ruin:—

Route
1. Bromfield Priory ch. Norman arcades, E. Eng.
4. Buildwas Abbey, 12th centy. Nave and chapter house.
8. Haughmond Abbey, 12th centy. Norman, E. Eng.
8. Lilleshall Abbey. Norman.
7. Malins Lee chapel. E. Norman.
8. Shrewsbury.
 Monastic remains of the Abbey. Norman.
 Grey Friars.
 St. Nicholas chapel. Norman.
6. Wenlock. Norman, E. Eng.
7. White Ladies conventual ch. Norman.

The churches of Shropshire are particularly rich in architectural details and monuments, and the ecclesiologist will find much to repay him in out-of-the-way country districts. Church restoration has been extensively carried on, and, generally speaking, very judiciously.

Route
1. Acton Burnell. Brass.
4. Acton Round. Norm.
7. Albrighton. Norm. and E. Eng., and Dec. details. Monuments.
4. Astley Abbott. Norm.
3. Aston Botterell. Altar-tomb.
4. Aston Eyre. Carving on tympanum.
8. Atcham. Norm.
6. Barrow. Norm.

Route

9. Baschurch. Norm.
8. Battlefield. 16th centy.; very fine church.
4. Berrington. Saxon (?) font. Effigy.
3. Bitterley. Norm. font. Rood-loft.
4. Bridgnorth—
 St. Leonard's. Collegiate. Oak roof.
4. Broseley. Perp.
2. Burford. E. Eng. Triptych painting. Organ screen. Monuments.
4. Chelmarsh. Norm. Piscina.
7. Child's Ercall. Font.
6. Church-Preen. Stone building adjoining the church.
1. Church Stretton. Norman doorway.
4. Claverley. Trans.-Norm. Heads of capitals. Font.
3. Cleobury. Norm. font.
3. Cleobury Mortimer. E. Eng. Wooden spire.
5. Clun. Norm. Lychgate.
1. Condover. Norm. Monument by *Roubilliac.*
6. Culmington. Double piscina.
7. Donington. Stained glass.
11. Ellesmere. Dec. Monuments. Stained glass.
7. Eyton. Monuments. Stained glass.
12. Hadnall. Monuments.
5. Hanwood. Norm. font.
11. Hanmer. Tudor. Monuments. Stained glass.
7. Hodnet. Monuments.
4. Kinlet. Blocked arches. Monuments. Stained glass.
4. Leighton. Effigy.
4. Linley. Norm. S. doorway.
9. Llanyblodwell. Octagonal tower.
1. Ludford. Monuments.
1. Ludlow. Perp. lantern tower. Stained glass. Norm. S. doorway.
3. Mamble. Chapels. Monuments. Effigies.
5. Minsterley.
4. Morville. Norm.
8. Newport. E. Eng.
9. Oswestry. Very fine church. Monuments.
7. Patshull. Stained glass. Altar-tombs.
7. Pattingham. Norm., E. Eng., and Dec.
1. Pitchford. Oak figures.
5. Pontesbury. Collegiate.
4. Quatford. Norm. and 14th-centy. alterations.
7. Shavington. Monuments.
12. Shawbury. Saxon (?) font.
7. Shiffnal. Trans.-Norm. and Dec. Parvise to S. porch.
8. Shrewsbury—
 Abbey Church. Norm., E. Eng., and Dec. Stained glass. Monuments.

Route

Old St. Chad's. Norm.
New St. Chad's. Stained glass.
St. Giles. Norm.
St. Mary's. Norm., E. Eng., and Dec. E. window. Stained glass. Pulpit. Monuments.
St. Michael's. Stained glass.
St. Julian's. Monuments.

1. Staunton Lacey. Romanesque work. E. Eng., with Dec. alterations.
3. Stoddesdon. Norm. Carved doorway. Tiles.
7. Tonge. E. Perp. Monuments very rich.
4. Upton Cressett. Norm. door.
8. Upton Magna. Fine church, restored by Street.
3. Wheathill. Norm. door.
12. Whitchurch. Stained glass. Monuments. Apse.
3. Worfield. Screen. Monuments.
8. Wroxeter. Norm. Altar tombs.

Domestic.—This class of antiquities is tolerably abundant in Salop, although there is not the same profusion of timber houses that prevails in Cheshire.

Route

8. Albright Hussey (moated).
2. Bleatherwood Court. Henry VIII.
7. Boscobel House. Timber-and-plaster
4. Bridgnorth. Bishop Percy's House (restored).
1. Bromfield. Domestic buildings of Bromfield Priory.
8. Edgmund Rectory. 14th centy.
1. Frodesley Hall. Elizabethan.
1. Ludford Hall. 13th centy.
1. Ludlow. The Reader's House—17th centy. Lane Asylum—a little later. Bull Inn—panelling. Feathers Inn—timber-and-plaster.
12. Moreton Corbet. 17th centy.
7. Patshull Old Hall. Timber-and-plaster.
1. Pitchford Hall. Early part of 16th centy. Timber-and-plaster.
6. Plash. Tudor style.
8. Shrewsbury. Council House; Ireland's Mansion; Bernard's Hall; Butcher's Row; Lloyd's House; Jones' Mansion; Drapers' Hall; Vaughan's Place; Rowley's Mansion; Whitehall; Bell Stone; Market House; Drapers' Almshouses.
1. Stokesay. 13th centy. Castellated domestic
6. Wenlock. Prior's residence. Old houses. Townhall.

Modern.—Few counties possess such wealthy territorial properties as Salop, many of their owners having inhabited their ancestral acres for a great number of generations. Amongst the most important seats in the county are the following :—

Route
1. Acton Burnell, Shrewsbury.
12. Acton Reynald, Shrewsbury.
4. Apley Park, near Bridgnorth.
7. Apley Castle, near Wellington.
8. Aqualate, Newport.
8. Attingham Park, Shrewsbury.
4. Badger Hall, Bridgnorth.
11. Bettisfield, Ellesmere.
3. Caynham Court, Ludlow.
8. Chetwynd Park, Newport.
1. Condover Park, Shrewsbury.
4. Davenport, Bridgnorth.
1. Downton Castle, Ludlow.
4. Gatacre Park, Bridgnorth.
11. Gredington, Ellesmere.
11. Halston, Oswestry.
11. Hardwick Hall, Ellesmere.
4. Kinlet Hall, Cleobury Mortimer.
8. Lilleshall Hall, Newport.
10. Loton Park, Shrewsbury.
8. Longner Hall, Shrewsbury.
6. Lutwych Hall, Wenlock.
3. Mawley Hall, Cleobury.
1. Oakley Park, Ludlow.
7. Patshull, Shiffnal.
9. Porkington, Oswestry.
7. Shavington, Market Drayton.
4. Stanley, Bridgnorth.
7. Tonge, Shiffnal.
7. Weston Park, Shiffnal.
4. Willey Park, Wenlock.

II.—CHESHIRE.

The early history of Cheshire appears with great probability to be bound up with its physico-geological features, seeing that the accounts of the earliest geographers agree very much with what our geological knowledge tells us must have been the case. In fact, since the time of man, and even as late as the occupation of the Romans, the north-west portion of the county has evidently undergone great changes.

Ptolemy mentions that there were only two rivers between the mouth of the Dee (Setcia Portus) and the Ken (Moricamb), which of course would exclude the third one altogether, viz., the mouth of the Mersey. This, therefore, would seem to imply that the mouths of the Dee and Mersey were

identical, and a careful consideration of the aspect of the district of Wirrall appears to confirm this view. "It is generally acknowledged that at some distant period, the tides have risen considerably higher on the western coast than at present, and this is borne out by the appearance of the banks of all the Lancashire as well as the Cheshire rivers, even without acceding to the common opinion, that the Ribble was once accessible for ships as high as the Roman station of Ribchester. With reference to this, several channels have been pointed out in the account of Wirral, by which the waters of the Mersey and Dee would have been made to communicate between that hundred and Broxton through a valley yet marked with shells and seasand, by a tide only a few feet higher than usual, and the same stream would also be led through other valleys between West Kirkby and Wallasey and the rest of Wirral."—*Ormerod.*

From the mouth of the little river Gowy there is a valley a very few feet above high water, through which communication could easily be made through Backford to Mollington. It is quite plain, indeed, that the tide once flowed that way; and when, added to that, we have the names of Ince (Ynys = island) and the claims of the Abbot of St. Werburgh, in the reign of Edward III., to seawrack 3 miles up the valley, it is more than probable that the high ground of Kirkby was an island, and that the Dee and Mersey had the same mouth.

In early British times the Cornavii were the inhabitants of Cheshire, but at the period of the Roman occupation it was included, like Shropshire, in the province of Flavia Cæsariensis. The Romans continued their holding of the county for between 200 and 300 years. Deva (Chester, Rte. 23) seems to have been occupied under Agricola, and to have been so held until the reigns of Diocletian and Maximian (A.D. 304). Various traces, in the shape of walls, coins, inscriptions, hypocausts, combine to make Chester one of the most interesting Roman cities in England; and, although little or nothing is left of the roads that led to it, we have sufficient knowledge of their direction to make them out pretty distinctly, and in this we are helped by the names of the villages on their route. An important road led from Deva to Uriconium (Wroxeter), which, according to the Antonine Itinerary, passed through Bovium (placed by antiquaries at Bangor Iscoed), just within the borders of Flintshire and on the banks of the Dee, which, it must be borne in mind, had probably a somewhat different course to what it has now.

From *Deva* a road ran north-east to the station of *Veratinum*, now Wilderspool, near Warrington (Rte. 26), and continued thence to *Mancunium* (Manchester), quitting Cheshire where it crossed the Dee at the small station marked *Ad Fines et Flavix*. From Veratinum, a road, Yr Iknield Street, ran southward to the station of *Condate*, identified by antiquaries as Kinderton, near Middlewich, and was most probably connected with *Pennocrucium* (Penkridge) in Staffordshire, and ultimately with *Etocetum* (Wall, near Lichfield). A cross road, marked as the Watling Street, joined Deva with the Condate and Veratinum road at Northwich, passing through Tarvin and Delamere Forest. The names of Stam-

ford Bridge, Stretton, Walton, &c., are sufficiently corroborative of the position of this road. Chester, according to Mr. Earle, is the Saxon Ceaster, derived from Castrum. "The true old Roman name had been Diva (Antoninus) and Colonia Divana (on a coin of Septimus Geta), and it was while these names were buried in forgetfulness, after the Roman evacuation and during the presumed desertion of Diva, that the modern name took its rise.

After the Saxon conquest, Cheshire was governed by the Mercian "ealdormen" under the West Saxon kings, until the invasion of the Danes, the traces of whose occupation may be found in the occasional names of places ending in "by." Subsequently the Saxon rule was restored, and it continued under Earl Leofric until the Norman conquest. Soon after this event, King William gave the county and earldom of Chester to Hugh Lupus, a famous warrior, though somewhat corpulent, according to Ordericus Vitalis, "being given much to his belly, whereby in time he grew so fat that he could scarce crawl." The importance and extent of his possessions may be imagined by their embracing not only Cheshire proper, but the lands between the Mersey and the Ribble, Lancashire not appearing at all as a territorial division in Domesday Book.

The line of Hugh Lupus expired in 1232, and soon afterwards Henry III. annexed the earldom to his crown, in the possession of which it remained ever afterwards, with one or two exceptions. "By an Act passed in Richard II.'s reign, the earldom was made into a principality, and was limited strictly for the future to the eldest son of the reigning king, and though the Act was annulled by one of the first year of Henry IV., the earldom of Chester has ever since been granted in conjunction with the Principality of Wales. The county continued to be governed by its earls as fully and independently as it had been under the Norman earls, till Henry VIII., by Act of Parliament, made it subordinate to the crown of England" (*Prov. Hist. of England*). In the Civil Wars, Cheshire suffered as much, if not more, than almost any county; Nantwich, Chester, Middlewich, Stockport, underwent sieges, together with a great number of private houses, whose owners suffered very considerably both in property and money; while the battles of Tarvin, Rowton, Hoole Heath, Malpas, and Northwich, sufficiently betoken the severity of the struggle.

Cheshire was always noted, as indeed it is now, for the number of its aristocracy and wealthy proprietors. For generations we find the same time-honoured names from the days of the Plantagenets down to the Stuarts and to the present time. Of course many historical names have disappeared altogether, while others have dropped from their high estate, and have only the melancholy satisfaction of pointing to where their ancestors held sway. But what the troublous times of the middle ages and the hard blows of the Civil Wars could not do, the changes of the 19th centy. are doing. Manufactures and commerce are gradually pushing aside the old noblesse, while *nouveaux riches* are taking their place, and to a certain extent it may be said that Cheshire is becoming a suburb of Manchester and Liverpool.

The County Palatine of Cheshire affords ample interest to the antiquary, and particularly in the matter of churches and old houses. The Roman stations and roads have already been alluded to, and will be found detailed under their respective routes. Camps and earthworks are extremely few in number, and are limited to the hilly districts, which will probably account for their scarcity. There are two or three to be found in the chain of hills that extend from Helsby to Frodsham (Rte. 24)—a British fortification named Bucton Castle, in the hilly country north of Staley Bridge (Rte. 28)—and Kelsborough Castle, of British origin, a little to the south of Delamere Forest. There are some tumuli in the same neighbourhood, but taken in connexion with the Saxon fortress of Eddisbury (Rte. 20), it is most probable that these are also of Saxon date—the word "Low," or tumulus, being derived from the Anglo-Saxon "Lleaw," that which covers. The Roosdych, near Whaley Bridge (Rte. 15), with Melandra and Mouslow Castles (Rte. 18) are just within the Derbyshire borders, so that they cannot be included in Cheshire antiquities.

Of existing castle ruins there are still fewer, than of camps. Beeston (Rte. 22) and Halton (Rte. 24), both of Norman date and origin, are the only ones left. Of the castles of Northwich, Stockport, Frodsham and Dodleston, only the sites remain. Rock Savage (Rte. 24) was dignified with the name of a castle, but it really was an Elizabethan castellated mansion.

Foremost amongst objects of ecclesiastical interest is the splendid old Perp. Cathedral of St. Werburgh at Chester.

The traces of the Priory of Birkenhead (Rte. 25), dating from the 12th centy., are unfortunately small, while of Pulford (Rte. 23) and Stanlaw (Rte. 24), Abbeys, the site only remains. There are some traces of monastic occupation at Ince (Rte. 24) and at Vale Royal (Rte. 17), now one of the finest of Cheshire residences.

Many of the churches of Cheshire are very fine, and abound in beautiful details. The following are the best worth visiting:—

Route

20. Arley Chapel. Modern Dec.
14. Astbury. Perp. Very fine west front, and general appearance. Monuments in church and churchyard.
20. Bowdon. Late Perp. Windows. Chapels. Monuments.
21. Brereton. 17th centy. Monuments.
20. Budworth. Stalls. Monuments.
22. Bunbury. Dec. and Perp. Chapels. Monuments.
19. Cheadle. Monuments.
23. Chester.
 St. John's. Splendid example of Early Norm. Double row triforium arches.
 St. Mary's. 12th centy. Monuments.
 Trinity Church. Monuments.
24. Daresbury Chapel. Rood-loft.

Route

15. Disley. 15th centy. Illuminated roof.
19. Dunham-Massey. Modern.
19. East Hall Chapel. 1581.
24. Frodsham. Stalls. Monuments.
14. Gawsworth. Mural paintings.
19. Grappenhall. 16th centy.
13. Holmes Chapel. Shrine work.
16. Hyde. Perp. Stained glass.
19. Lymm. Dec.
14. Macclesfield.
 St. Michael's. 13th centy. Monuments.
 Rivers Chapel (Edwardian). Monuments. Oriel window.
23. Malpas. Dec. and Perp. Monuments.
21. Middlewich. Monuments.
20. Mobberley. Piscina. Sedilia. Brasses. Monuments.
18. Mottram. Perp. Monuments.
13. Nantwich. Cruciform Ch. of 14th centy. Vaulted stone roof of choir. Stalls.
25. Neston. Fine tower and general appearance.
20. Over Peover. 16th centy. Monuments.
 Nether Peover Black-and-white Timber Church
24. Plemstall. Henry VIII. Monuments.
14. Prestbury. Various styles.
20. Rostherne. 16th centy. Monuments.
13. Sandbach. 17th centy. Chapels. Oak roof. Font. In the town are two crosses of pure Saxon date.
25. Shotwick. Monuments.
13. Stockport. Dec. Piscina. Stalls. Monuments.
20. Tabley. Jacobean Chapel.
22. Tarporley. Monuments.
20. Tarvin. Bruen Chapel. Brass.
15. Taxal. Monuments.
24. Thornton. Piscina. Monuments.
19. Warburton. 14th centy. Ancient timber.
17. Weaverham. Date of James I.
13. Wilmslow. 14th century.

With the exception of Lancashire, Cheshire is, perhaps, the richest county in England in old houses, and particularly of that quaint and old-fashioned style of timber-and-plaster. It is a fact worth mentioning, that the prevalence of this style somewhat depends on the geological formation; for timber houses are always more abundant in flat districts, where quarries are absent, than in hilly ones. Cheshire, being principally on the New Red Sandstone, in which quarries are few and far between, is, therefore, abundant in this class of antiquities.

Route

14. Adlington Hall. Elizabethan.
20. Arley Hall. Elizabethan.
19. Baguley Hall. Farmhouse. Timber-and-plaster. Edward II.
14. Bramhall. Timber-and-plaster. Edward III.
21. Brereton Hall. 16th centy.
23. Calveley Hall. Farmhouse.
23. Carden. Timbered. Henry III.
23. Chester. Bishop Lloyd's residence. God's Providence House. Stanley Palace. The Rows. Falcon, and other old houses.
14. Congleton. Timber houses.
21. Cotton Hall. Timber-and-plaster.
17. Crowton Hall. Farmhouse. Timber-and-plaster.
21. Davenport Hall.
13. Dorfold Hall. Elizabethan.
16. Dukinfield Hall. Timber-and-plaster. Edward II.
20. Do. Farmhouse.
19. Dunham-Massey.
17. Dutton Hall. 16th centy.
24. Elton Hall. Farmhouse. 17th centy.
17. Erdeswick Hall.
16. Harden Hall. Elizabethan.
22. Hatton Hall.
20. Holford Hall. Farmhouse. Timber-and-plaster.
22. Huxley Hall. Edward I.
21. Kinderton Hall. Farmhouse. Timber-and-plaster. 17th centy.
23. Kinnerton Hall. Edward III.
23. Lache Hall. 17th centy.
25. Leasowe Castle. Elizabethan.
15. Lyme Park. Henry VII.
19. Lymm Hall.
14. Macclesfield. Bate Hall.
16. Marple Hall. Elizabethan.
14. Moreton Hall (Little). Timber-and-plaster.
20. Over Peover Hall. Elizabethan.
14. Poynton Hall. 17th centy.
21. Ravenscroft Hall. 17th centy.
22. Saighton Grange. Gate tower.
13. Sandbach Old Hall. (The Inn). 17th centy.
21. Smethwick Hall. Farmhouse.
21. Somerford Booths. 17th centy.
13. Stockport. Old House in Underbank. Timber-and-plaster.
20. Tabley Old Hall. 17th centy.
18. Tintwistle Hall.
20. Toft Hall.
13. Twemlow Hall. Moated.
22. Wetenhall. Gabled. Timber-and-plaster.
19. Wythenshawe Hall. Edward III.

Amongst the old family seats and estates of Cheshire the finest are—

Route		Route	
13.	Alderley Park.	20.	Marbury Hall.
13.	Capesthorne.	24.	Norton Priory.
23.	Cholmondeley Castle.	22.	Oulton Park.
13.	Crewe Hall.	22.	Peckforton Castle.
13.	Combermere Abbey.	20.	Tabley.
23.	Eaton Hall.	20.	Tatton Park.
18.	Glossop Hall.	17.	Vale Royal.
15.	Lyme Park.		

V.—PLACES OF INTEREST.

I.—SHROPSHIRE.

Ludlow. Castle. View from the Keep. Church. Reader's House. Hosiers' Almshouse. Lane Asylum. Grammar School. Museum. Broad Street Gate. Feathers Hotel. Ludford House and Church. Scenery at Whitecliff and Mary Knoll. Aston Church. Wigmore Church. Hay Park. Scene of 'Comus.' Bringewood Chase. View from the Vignoles. Croft Ambrey. Richard's Castle. Burrington Church. Downton Castle. Scenery of the Teme. Bitterley Church and Cross. Caynham Camp. Titterstone Clee Hill and Camp. Brown Clee Hill and Camps of Clee Burf and Abdon Burf. Wheathill Church. Burwarton Church.

Bromfield. Priory Church. Oakley Park. Staunton Lacey Church.

Craven Arms. Stokesay. Norton Camp. Corvedale. Delbury Church. The Heath Chapel. Munslow Church. Millichope Old House. Holgate Church.

Church Stretton. Church. Ascent of Longmynd. Carding Mill. Devil's Mouth. Lydd Spout. Ratlinghope. Castle Ring. Bodbury Ring. Portway. Ascent of Caer Caradoc. (Camp.) Cardington. Hope Bowdler.

Lebotwood. Acton Burnell Park. Castle. Church. Frodesley Church. Pitchford Hall. Church.

Condover. Park and Church.

Wooferton. Little Hereford Church. Timber bridge over the Teme. Easton Court. Bleatherwood Court.

Tenbury. Church. Butter Cross. Wells. St. Michael's College. Burford Church.

Neen Sollars. Mamble Church. Shakenhurst.

Cleobury Mortimer. Church and wooden spire. Grammar School. Mawley Hall. Limestone scenery at Farlow and Oreton. Forest of Wyre.

Bewdley. Railway bridge. Scenery of the Severn. Habberley Valley.

Bridgnorth. Castle. St. Leonard's Church. St. Mary's Church. Townhall. Bishop Percy's House. Bridge. Grammar School. Hermitage. Quatford Church. Claverley Church. Stoddesdon Church. Cleobury Church. Davenport House. Worfield Church. Scenery of the Worf. Badger Hall. Scenery of Badger Dingle. Morville Church. Upton Cressett Church. Aston Eyre Church. Acton Round Church. Astley Abbott Church.

Higley. Kinlet Hall and Church. Chelmarsh Church.

Linley. Church. Apley Park. The Terrace. Willey Park.

Coalport. Scenery of Severn.

Iron Bridge. Church. Bridge. Coalbrook Dale Works. Scenery. Broseley. Pritchard Memorial. Church. Messrs. Maw's Tile Works at Benthall. Scenery at Benthall Edge.

Buildwas. Abbey. Railway Bridge. Leighton Church.

Cressage. Timber bridge. Old oak.

Berrington. Church.

Knighton. Old house. Church. Offa's Dyke. Farrington. Craig Donna. Holloway Rocks. Caer Caradoc. Coxwall Knoll.

Clun. Castle. Church. Bury Ditches.

Bishop's Castle. Church. Walcot Park. Linley Hall. Snead Camp. Simond's Castle. Marrington Dyke. Corndon Hill. Circle at Mitchell's Fold. Shelve Mines.

Minsterley. Church. Stiperstones. Habberley Camp. Pontesbury Church.

Hopton. Castle.

Longville. Old house at Plash. Church Preen Church.

Easthope. Lutwych Hall. The Ditches.

Wenlock. Priory ruins. Church. Prior's residence. Old houses. Barrow Church.

Albrighton. Church. Patshull Park and Church. Pattingham Church. Donington Church. White Ladies Ruins. Boscobel Wood and House. Weston Park. Tonge Church. Castle.

Shiffnall. Church. View from Brimstree Hill.

Oakengates. Malins Lee Chapel. Coalfield.

Wellington. Church. Apley Castle. Excursion to the Wrekin. Eyton Church.

Hodnet. Hall. Church. Child's Ercal Church.

Market Drayton. Church. Blore Heath. Muckleston Church.

Adderley. Hall. Shavington.

Shrewsbury. Railway Station. Castle. Town Walls. Welsh and English bridges. St. Mary's Church. St. Alkmund's. St. Julian's. Old St. Chad's. New St. Chad's. Abbey Church. Monastic remains. Stone pulpit. St. Giles'. St. Michael's. School. St. Nicholas' Chapel. Council House. Old buildings. Grey Friar ruins. Butter Market. Corn Exchange. Market House. Clive Monument. Lord Hill's Column. Drapers' Almshouses. Wellington Hospital. Museum. Quarry. Glyndwr's

Oak. Atcham Church. Attingham Hall. Wroxeter Church. Roman city. Haughmond Abbey. Sundorne Park. Uffington Hill. Ebury Camp. Upton Magna Church. Battlefield Church. Albright Hussey. Longner Hall. Tomb of Edward Burton.

Donnington. Lilleshall Abbey. Ironworks.

Newport. Church. Aqualate Park. Edgmond Church and Rectory. Chetwynd Park.

Baschurch. Church. Berth Hill Camp. Ruyton of the 11 Towns.

Whittington. Castle.

Oswestry. Church. Old Oswestry. Castell Brogyntyn. Porkington. Watt's Dyke. Llanymynach Hill. Llanyblodwell Church.

Gobowen. Scenery of Glen Ceiriog. Viaduct and Aqueduct. Halston.

Ellesmere. Church. Lake. Hardwicke.

Bettesfield. Hanmer Church.

Westbury. Caus Castle.

Alberbury. Church. Loton. Belan Bank. Rowton Castle. Wattleborough Castle. Woolaston. Breidden Hills.

Hadnall. Church. Shawbury Church. Moreton Corbet House. Church.

Yorton. Grinshill. Copper-mines at Clive.

Wem. Church. Hawkstone Park.

Whitchurch. Church.

II.—CHESHIRE.

Wrenbury. Church. Combermere Abbey.

Nantwich. Church. Town Hall. Elizabethan House in Hospital Street. Dorfold Hall.

Crewe. Railway Station. Engine Factories. Bessemer Steel Works. Crewe Hall (not shown).

Sandbach. Church. Inn. Crosses.

Holmes Chapel. Cotton Hall. Blackden Hall. Somerford Booths. Davenport Hall. Brereton Hall and Church.

Chelford. Withington Hall. Capesthorne.

Alderley. Edge. Copper Mines.

Wimslow. Church. Lindow Common.

Handforth. Styal. Norcliffe Hall.

Stockport. Railway Viaduct. Church. Market Place. Timbered Houses. Vernon Park. Factories. Bramhall.

Poynton. Hall.

Adlington. Adlington Hall.

Macclesfield. Church. Rivers Chapel. Christ Church. Cemetery. Park. Grammar School. Silk Mills. Excursion to Cat and Fiddle. Reservoirs near Langley. Prestbury Church. Shutlingslow. Bollington. Pott Shrigley Church. Gawsworth Church and Tilting Ground.

Congleton. Town Hall. Silk Mills. Timbered Houses. Cloud End. Congleton Edge. Mow Cop. Biddulph. Astbury Church. Little Moreton Hall.

Harecastle. Tunnel. Lawton Church. Coal Mines.

Whaley Bridge. Scenery of the Goyt. Roosdych. Taxall Church.

Disley. Lyme Park.

Marple. Hall. Church. View from the Churchyard. Chadkirk Church. Compstall.

Woodley. Werneth Low. Harden Hall.

Hyde. Church. Cotton Mills. Dukinfield Chapel and Hall.

Mottram. Church. View from Churchyard.

Dinting Vale. Viaduct.

Glossop. Hall. Church. Melandra Castle. Mouslow Castle.

Hadfield. Tintwistle. Manchester Reservoirs in the Etherow Valley.

Cheadle. Church.

Northenden. Wythenshaw Hall.

Baguley. Baguley Hall.

Dunham Massey. Hall. Dunham Church.

Altrincham. Scenery of the Bollin. Bowden Downs. Church.

Timperley. Riddings. Fir-tree Farm. Ashton on Mersey. Roman Station. Carrington Moss.

Heatley. Warburton Church. Hall.

Lymm. Church. Dell of the Dane. Hall. Quarries. High Leigh. East Hall. West Hall.

Thelwall. Grappenhall Church.

Ashley. Scenery of the Bollin. Rostherne Mere and Church. Mere Hall.

Mobberly. Church. Dukinfield Hall.

Knutsford. Unitarian Burying Ground. Gaol. Town Hall. Tatton Park and Gardens. Toft Hall and Church. Over Peover Hall and Church. Tabley Old Hall.

Plumley. Holford Hall.

Northwich. Salt Works. Old Marston Mine. Marbury Hall. Budworth Church. Arley Hall and Chapel.

Minshull Vernon. Erdeswick Hall.

Winsford. Salt Works. Over.

Hartford Bridge. Vale Royal. Scenery of the Weaver. Weaverham Church. Dutton Hall. Delamere Forest. View from Eddisbury Hill. Old Fortress. Tumuli. Kelsborough Castle. Tarvin Church.

Middlewich. Church. Lea Hall. Bostock. Davenham.

Calverley. Wetenhall Hall. Wardle Hall.

Beeston. Castle. Peckforton Castle. Walk through the woods to Burwardsley. Peckforton Hills. Bunbury Church. Tarporley Church. Swan Inn. Oulton Park.

Tattenhall. Huxley Hall. Hatton.

Waverton. Rowton Heath.

Malpas. Church. Cholmondeley Castle. Broxton. Peckforton Hills. Carden. Farndon. Holt. Handley Church. Calverley Hall.

Dukenfield, Colonel, a Parliamentary leader.
Davenport, Sir Humphry, Chief Baron of the Exchequer. Charles I.
Egerton, Thomas, Master of the Rolls to Queen Elizabeth.
Fothergill, Dr., a celebrated physician. 18th centy.
Gerarde, John, the herbalist. 16th centy.
Harrison, Thomas, the regicide.
Heber, Reginald, Bishop of Calcutta.
Henry, Matthew, the commentator.
Higden, Ralph, the chronicler.
Holinshed, Ralph, the chronicler and antiquary in the reign of Elizabeth.
Legh, Sir Perkin, knighted at the battle of Crecy.
Leicester, Sir P., antiquary and county historian.
Lindsey, Theophilus, a celebrated Unitarian divine of the 18th centy.
Nedham, Sir John, Judge in reign of Henry VI.
Nixon, the Cheshire prophet in the time of James I.
Parnell, Dr., Archdeacon of Clogher, and poet.
Percival, Sir T., Lord Mayor of London. Edward IV.
Shaw, Dr., a noted preacher. Reign of Edward IV.
Shaw, Sir E., Lord Mayor of London. Reign of Richard III.
Speed, John, antiquary. Reign of James I.
Touchet, Sir John, commander. Time of Edward IV.
Whitney, Geoffrey, poet. Time of Elizabeth.

VII. SKELETON TOURS.

(*To be varied according to pleasure.*)

(*The Places marked in Italics are the best for Head-quarters.*)

I.—SHROPSHIRE.

Days.

1. By rail from *Wolverhampton* to Codsall or Albrighton Stats. Drive or walk thence to White Ladies and Boscobel (not shown after 5 P.M.). Continue excursion to Tonge Church and Castle. Sleep at *Shiffnal.*
2. See Shiffnal Church. Walk to Brimstree Hill. By rail to Wellington. Excursion to Wrekin. Sleep at *Wellington.*
3. By rail to Lilleshall. See Abbey and Iron-works. Return to *Shrewsbury* by rail, and on the way see Upton Magna Church.
4. Spend at *Shrewsbury.*
5. Excursions in the morning to Haughmond Abbey and Uffington Hill; in afternoon to Battlefield Church and Moreton Corbet, returning by rail from Hadnall to *Shrewsbury.*

Days.

6. Excursion to Atcham and Wroxeter. Afternoon by train to Buildwas. See Abbey. Sleep at *Buildwas.*
7. Excursion to Wenlock. See Abbey, &c.; scenery of Benthall and Wenlock Edges. Sleep at *Coalbrook Dale.*
8. Ironworks. Lincoln Hill. By rail from Ironbridge to Linley. See the Terrace at Apley Park. Sleep at *Bridgnorth.*
9. See Bridgnorth. Afternoon excursion to Worfield and the Badger Dingle. Return to *Bridgnorth.*
10. Rail to Bewdley. See Forest of Wyre and Cleobury Mortimer; thence to *Tenbury,* where sleep. See Burford Church in afternoon.
11. See St. Michael's College. Afternoon, rail to Little Hereford, where see Church, and on by train to *Ludlow.* See Castle.
12. *Ludlow.* Afternoon, excursion to Vignalls and scene of Milton's 'Comus.'
13. Excursion to Leintwardine and Downton. Scenery of the Teme.
14. Excursion to the Clee Hills, returning to *Ludlow* by Staunton Lacey.
15. From Ludlow by rail to Craven Arms. See Stokesay Castle. Rail from Craven Arms to Hopton Castle and *Knighton,* where sleep.
16. Excursion to Clun Church and Castle. Continue to Bury Ditches and on to *Bishop's Castle.*
17. From Bishop's Castle in afternoon, by rail, to Lydham Heath, for Linley, Craven Arms, and *Church Stretton.*
18. Explore the Longmynd, and, if a good pedestrian, continue over the Stiperstones to Minsterley Stat., where take last train to *Shrewsbury;* or
 Ascend the Caer Caradoc or Lawley, and afternoon by train to *Shrewsbury.*
19. By train to Middletown Stat., and ascend the Breidden. Return to Shrewsbury, or, if preferred, go on to Welshpool and take the train to *Oswestry.*
20. See Oswestry and Llanymynach Hill. Afternoon, train to Whittington. See Castle. Sleep at *Ellesmere.*
21. See Ellesmere, and by rail to Whitchurch and Wem. Afternoon, excursion to *Hawkstone.* Sleep at the Inn there.
23. Drive or walk to Hodnet, and thence by train to Market Drayton and *Nantwich;* or
 Return from Hawkstone to Wem, and take the train to Wrenbury. See Combermere Abbey, and by rail from Wrenbury to *Nantwich.*

II.—CHESHIRE.

1. See Nantwich, Acton Church, Combermere Abbey (train from *Nantwich* to Wrenbury), and in evening to *Crewe,* where sleep.
2. See Railway Stat. and Engine-works; Crewe Hall. Afternoon, take the train to Basford and visit Wybunbury Church.

Days.
3. From *Crewe* by train to Harecastle and Mow Cop. See Little Moreton Hall; Astbury Church. Sleep at *Congleton.*
4. Excursion to Congleton Edge or Cloud Hill, and to Biddulph Gardens. In evening by rail to *Macclesfield.*
5. See Macclesfield. Afternoon, excursion to Shutlingslow.
6. Excursion to Cat and Fiddle, returning to *Macclesfield* by Jenkin's Chapel and Bollington.
7. By train to Bramhall. See the Hall. Sleep at *Stockport.*
8. Excursion from Stockport to Lyme Park, Disley Church, and Whaley Bridge. If time, walk to Taxal. Return to *Stockport.*
9. Excursion to Chadkirk, Marple Hall, and to Hyde for Harden and Dukinfield Halls. Return to *Stockport.*
10. Excursion by rail to Mottram, Tintwistle, the Reservoirs, and Glossop.
11. From *Stockport* by rail to Alderley. See the Edge and Copper works. Afternoon, by rail to *Sandbach.*
12. See Sandbach, Brereton Hall, and other old houses in the neighbourhood. Afternoon, by train to Middlewich and *Northwich.*
13. See Northwich Salt-works and (if possible) Old Marston Mine. Afternoon, Holford Hall or Arley Hall and Chapel. Sleep at *Knutsford.*
14. See Rostherne Church and Mere, Bowdon Church and Downs, and Dunham Massey. Sleep at *Altrincham.*
15. See Wythenshaw and Baguley Halls, Lymm Church and Quarries, and Grappenhall Church. Sleep at *Warrington.*
16. By rail from *Warrington* to Hartford Bridge, Delamere Forest, Tarvin, and *Chester.*
17. See Chester and Eaton Hall.
18. Excursion to Beeston Castle, Tarporley, and Bunbury Church. The pedestrian can sleep at *Beeston* and walk on
19. To the Peckforton Hills, Broxton, Carden, Handley, and *Chester.*
20. From *Chester* by rail to Frodsham; excursion over the hills. Afternoon, see Runcorn and Halton Castle; and, in the evening, by train (viâ Helsby) to *Birkenhead.*
21. See Birkenhead Docks and town. Afternoon, by rail to Bidston, Leasowes, and *Hoylake,* where sleep.
22. Walk or drive to Parkgate. By rail to Neston and Eastham, whence cross by steamer to *Liverpool.*

VIII. ANTIQUARIAN TOURS.

(*The Places in Italics are the best Centres from which to explore.*)

I.—SHROPSHIRE—(Commencing at Bewdley).

Days.
1. Rail to Cleobury Mortimer (Church), or to Neen Sollers Station, thence walk to Mamble Church. On to Tenbury (Church). Burford Church. Little Hereford Church. Reach *Ludlow* for head-quarters.
2. Ludlow Castle. Church. Reader's House. Grammar School. Lane

Days.

Asylum. Bull and Feathers Inns. Bridge and Gate. Ludford Church. Bromfield and Staunton Lacey Churches.

3. Aston Church. Wigmore Church and Castle. Croft Ambrey Earthwork. Richard's Castle. Scene of 'Comus.'
4. Caynham Camp. Bitterley Cross, Church, and Court. Titterston Clee Camp. Continue excursion either to Brown Clee, and see the Camps of Clee Burf, Abdon Burf, and Nordy Bank, or else visit the Churches of Wheathill, Burwarton, and Aston Botterell.
5. *Craven Arms.* Stokesay Castle. Norton Camp. View Edge. Culmington Church. Cortham Earthworks. The Heath Chapel. Delbury Church.
6. Hopton Castle. Coxwall Knoll. *Knighton*, old houses. Farington. Caer Caradoc.
7. Drive to Clun Church and Castle. Bury Ditches. Tumuli. *Bishop's Castle* Church. Camp at Snead. Hyssington Church. Circles on Corndon Hill.
8. Billing's Ring. Castle Ring. *Church Stretton* Church. Ancient roads on Longmynd. Brockhurst Castle. Bodbury Ring. Caer Caradoc.
9. By train to Lebotwood station. Walk to Frodesley Church. Acton Burnell Castle. Pitchford Hall and Church, rejoining the Severn Valley Railway at Condover Station; thence to *Shrewsbury.*
10. Spend in examination of Shrewsbury.
11. Visit Atcham Church. Wroxeter Church and City; returning by Upton Magna Church. Uffington Church. Haughmond Abbey. Ebury Camp; and by Sundorne to Shrewsbury.
12. Visit by rail, Berrington Church. Cressage Oak. Leighton Church, and Buildwas Abbey.
13. *Wenlock* Abbey. Prior's House. Town Hall. Acton Round Church. Barrow Church.
14. By rail to Easthope Station. Visit house at Plash. Langley Hall Gateway. The Ditches.
15. Iron Bridge. Linley Church. Astley Abbot's Church. *Bridgnorth* Castle, Church, old houses.
16. Morville Church. Aston Eyre Church. Upton Cresset Church. Quatford and Quat Churches.
17. Claverley Church. Worfield Church. The Walls. Badger Church. Patshull Church, continuing to Albrighton Station, where a train may be caught either to *Wolverhampton* or Shiffnal; the former, perhaps, will be most convenient.
18. Return by train to Albrighton Station. See the Church, and Donnington Church; then visit White Ladies ruins and Boscobel. On return to *Shiffnal*, see Tonge Church.
19. Shiffnal Church. Malins Lee Chapel. Wombridge Priory ruins. *Wellington.* Earthworks on the Wrekin.
20. Lilleshall Abbey. Woodcote Church. Newport Church. Edgmund Church and Rectory. Eyton Church. Return by rail to *Shrewsbury.*

Days.

21. Hanwood Church. Pontesbury Church and Camp. Minsterley Church. Caus Castle. Wattlesborough Castle; returning to Westbury Station, and thence to *Shrewsbury.*
22. Battlefield Church. Albright Hussey. Moreton-Corbett, Hadnall, and Shawbury Churches.
23. By rail to Baschurch Station. The Berth. Ruyton of the 11 Towns. Whittington Church and Castle. Park Hall. *Oswestry.*
24. Old Oswestry. Offa's Dyke. Ellesmere Church. Hanmer Church. *Whitchurch.*
25. Wem Church. Edstaston Church. Hawkstone. Red Castle. Bury Walls. Hodnet Church. *Market Drayton.*
26. Blore Heath. Muckleston Church. Stoke-upon-Tern Church. Adderley Church. *Nantwich.* Enter Cheshire.

II.—CHESHIRE.

1. Nantwich Church and old houses. Acton Church, Dorfold Hall. Combermere Abbey. Wrenbury Church.
2. *Crewe* Hall. Coppenhall Church. Haslington Hall. Wybunbury Church. Barthomley Church. Lawton Church.
3. *Sandbach* Church. Inn. Crosses. Betchton Hall. Holmes Chapel Church. Cotton Hall. Twemlow Hall. Blackden Hall.
4. Somerford Booths. Swettenham Hall. Davenport Hall. Brereton Hall and Church. Smethwick Hall. Little Moreton Hall. Astbury Church.
5. *Congleton,* old houses. Crossley. Gawsworth Church. Macclesfield Church. Rivers Chapel. Prestbury Church.
6. Alderley Church. Bramhall. *Stockport* Church. Bank House. Harden Hall. Hyde Church. Dukinfield Hall.
7. Disley Church. Lyme Hall. Whalley Bridge. Roosdyche. Taxal Church. Marple Hall. Chadkirk.
8. Mottram Church. Tintwistle. Melandra and Mouslow Castles.
9. Wythenshaw Hall. Baguley Hall. Dunham Massey Church. Bowdon Church. Rostherne Church.
10. *Knutsford* old Church. Holford Hall. Mobberley Church. Toft Hall and Church. Over Peover Church and Hall. Nether Peover Church, Black-and-white timbered. Tabley Old Hall.
11. *Northwich* Castle site. Budworth Church. Arley Chapel. Davenham Church. Middlewich Church. Kinderton (Roman stat. of Condate). Lea Hall. Vale Royal.
12. Merton Grange. Crowton Hall. Dutton Hall; or from Hartford Bridge to Delamere Forest, where examine Eddisbury Hill. Tumuli. Kelsborough Castle. Tarvin Church. Sleep at *Chester.*
13. Examine Chester.
14. Rowton Heath. Hatton. Huxley Hall. Beeston Castle. Tarporley Church. Bunbury Church. Sleep at Beeston.

Days.
15. Drive to Malpas, see Church. Cholmondeley Castle. Carden. Handley Church. Calverley Hall. *Chester.*
16. Eccleston Church. Eaton Hall. Saighton Grange. Dodlestone Church. Kinnerton Hall. Plemstall Church.
17. Frodsham Church. Rock Savage. Halton Church and Castle. Norton Priory. Daresbury Chapel. *Warrington.*
18. Wilderspool (Veratinum), Thelwall, Grappenhall, and Lymm Churches. East and West Leigh Halls and Chapel. Warrington Church.
19. By rail to Helsby. Ince Manor House. Site of Stanlaw Abbey. Thornton Hall and Church. Stotwick Church. Neston Church. *Birkenhead.*
20. Leasowe Castle. Hoylake.

IX. PEDESTRIAN TOURS.

I.—SHROPSHIRE.

Tour
1. From *Ludlow* by Richard's Castle, Croft Ambrey, Wigmore. Returning by Elton and Mary Knoll. About 17 m.
2. From *Ludlow* to Burrington and Downton, returning by Bromfield. 11 to 12 m.
3. From Ludlow over the Clee Hills to *Cleobury Mortimer.* 11 m. By going on to Oreton and Farlow, some 4 m. longer.
4. From Cleobury Mortimer to *Bridgnorth*, by Kinlet and Billingsley. 13 m.
5. From Bridgnorth to *Wenlock*, by Broseley. Ironbridge. Coalbrook Dale, and Buildwas. 11 m.
6. From Wenlock to *Craven Arms*, down Corvedale. About 20 m.
7. From Craven Arms to Knighton by rail. Walk on to Clun, Bury Ditches, and *Bishop's Castle.* 14 m.
8. From Bishop's Castle to Hyssington, Corndon Mount, Shelve, and *Minsterley.* 13 m.
9. From Minsterley to the Stiperstones, Ratlinghope, and over the Longmynd to *Church Stretton.* About 11 m.
10. From Church Stretton to Caer Caradoc, Acton Burnell, Pitchford, and Berrington Stat. 10 to 11 m.
11. *Shrewsbury* to Battlefield, Albright Hussey, Haughmond Abbey, Uffington Hill. 11 m.
12. By rail to Middletown Stat. Walk over the Breidden to Llandrinio, Llanymynach, Treonen, and *Oswestry.* 12 to 13 m.
13. From Oswestry by Frankton to Ellesmere. 7 m. By rail from thence to Wrenbury. See Combermere Abbey, 6 m., and afterwards by rail to Nantwich and *Wellington.*
14. Ascend the Wrekin. 6 m. By rail to Shiffnal: then walk by Tonge and Boscobel to Albrighton Stat., 9 m., whence take train to *Wolverhampton.*

II.—CHESHIRE.

Tour

1. Start from Whitchurch. Walk to Malpas and *Broxton Junc.* 10 m. See Carden.
2. From Broxton, over the Peckforton Hills, to Beeston and *Tarporley.* 9 m.
3. From Tarporley, across Delamere Forest, to *Frodsham.* 11 to 12 m.
4. From Frodsham to Northwich, 9 m.; or on to *Knutsford,* 15 m.
5. From Knutsford to Rostherne and Bowdon, 8 m.; or from Rostherne, follow up the Bollin to Wilmslow, about 6 or 7 m. Sleep at *Alderley.*
6. Over the Edge to Macclesfield. 6 m. Rail to *Congleton,* and see Congleton Edge. Astbury and Moreton Hall.
7. Rail to North Rode Stat. Walk to Broxton, 14 m., by Shutlingslow and Axe Edge.
8. Broxton to Disley, by Goyts Bridge, see Lyme Hall. Taxal. Whaley Bridge. 10 to 11 m. Train to *Stockport.*

11. Stockport to Marple. *Glossop.* About 12 m.

HANDBOOK

FOR

SHROPSHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

ROUTES.

*** The names of places are printed in *italics* only in those routes where the *places* are described.

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2 Ludlow to *Bewdley*, by *Wooferton*, *Tenbury*, and *Cleobury Mortimer*	18
3 Ludlow to Wolverhampton, by the *Clee Hills* and Bridgnorth	23
4 Bewdley to Shrewsbury by *Bridgnorth* and *Ironbridge*	26
5 *Knighton* to Shrewsbury, by *Clun*, *Bishop's Castle*, and *Minsterley*	37
6 Knighton to Wellington, by Craven Arms, *Wenlock*, and Coalbrook Dale	43
7 Wolverhampton to Nantwich, by *Shiffnal*, *Wellington*, and *Market Drayton*	48
8 *Shrewsbury* to Stafford, by Wellington and Newport	57
9 Shrewsbury to Chirk	73
10 Shrewsbury to Welshpool, by rail and road	77
11 Whittington to Whitchurch, by *Ellesmere*	80
12 Shrewsbury to Nantwich, by *Wem* and *Whitchurch*	82
13 Whitchurch to *Stockport*, by *Nantwich*, *Crewe*, and *Alderley*	86
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ROUTE 1.

FROM HEREFORD TO SHREWSBURY, BY LUDLOW AND CHURCH STRETTON.

(*Hereford and Shrewsbury Railway.*)

THE Hereford and Shrewsbury Railway, a joint line of the Great Western and London and North-Western Companies, quits Hereford by the Barr's Court Stat. (*Handbook for Herefordshire*), passes Leominster 13 m. and crosses the Shropshire border between the villages of Brimfield and (19 m.) WOOFERTON JUNC., whence a branch is given off on rt. to Tenbury and Bewdley. The rly. now enters the fertile and beautifully-wooded valley of the Teme, which it crosses between the villages of Ashford Bowdler (rt. bank) and Ashford Carbonell (l. bank). On the l. bank are *Ashford Court* (William Henderson, Esq.), and *Ashford House* (Miss Hall). *Ashford Hall*, on rt. bank, is the seat of Sir E. Russell, K.C.S.I. At the foot of Tinker's Hill, between which and the river the line runs, is *Saltmoor Well*, a saline spring, which once afforded much benefit in scorbutic disorders, the water containing carbonate of iron, with sulphate of magnesia and muriate of soda. The well is now filled up. The line follows the bend of the Teme, leaving the *Sheet* (the property of Vincent Wheeler, Esq.) to the rt. A beautiful view of the town of Ludlow is obtained before entering the tunnel, in which the church, castle, and rocks by the river-side are prominent objects.

23½ m. *Ludlow* (*Hotels:* Feathers; Angel; neither of them up to the requirements of so popular a rendezvous), "in Welsh Dinan and Llys-twysoc, that is, the Prince's Palace; 'tis seated upon a hill at the joyning of the Teme with the river Corve: a town of greater beauty than antiquity."—*Camden.* Ludlow is indeed splendidly situated on an amphitheatre of high ground, formed by the winding stream of the Teme just at its junction with the Corve. From the highest portion, on which are the church and castle, the streets descend on every side, and by their breadth and dignity bear evidence to its importance in the days when the county families of Shropshire thought it not unfashionable to spend the winter season within its precincts and mingle in its assemblies and Bailiff's Feasts.

"The town doth stand most part upon a hill,
Built well and fayre, with streates both longe and wide;
The houses such, where straungers lodge at will,
As long as there the counsell lists abide.
Both fine and cleane the streates are all throughout,
With condits cleere and wholesome water springs;
And who that lists to walk the towne about
Shall find therein some rare and pleasant things;
But chiefly there the ayre so sweete you have
As in no place ye can no better crave."
Churchyard

The early history of the town is altogether identified with that of the *Castle*, which, since its erection in the 12th century, has been the scene of much stormy action. It is said to have been begun by Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, the builder of the massive dongeon or keep, soon after the Conquest, and completed by Joce de Dinan in the reign of Henry I. by the rebellion of its possessors against whom it became a royal castle. In Stephen's time, the then governor joined the cause of Maud; and in the siege that followed, the Scottish Prince, whom Stephen had brought as his hostage, was nearly drawn within the walls by an enormous iron hook. In Henry II.'s reign, the castle was in the possession of Joce de Dinan, into whose household the

second Fulke FitzWarine, son of the Lord of Whittington, was sent for education as a knight. A most romantic incident is recorded concerning Fulke, who was idling in the courtyard when the news came that Joce de Dinan had been attacked by Walter de Lacy, and was even then being overpowered in a hand-to-hand combat with him and 3 of his knights. Fulke, although too young to wear armour, seized a rusty helmet and a great Danish axe, and, flinging himself on the back of a carthorse, spurred to the scene of action; where he laid about him with such vigour that he soon rescued Joce from his danger, and brought De Lacy in triumph as a prisoner to the castle. After this feat he married, a little later on, Hawyse, the daughter of Joce, and on the death of his father became Lord of Whittington. Ludlow castle subsequently became the residence of Edward IV. and his infant children, the murderer of whom, Richard Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard the Third, is said to have had his early education here; here too in Henry VII.'s reign, his elder son, Arthur Prince of Wales, died in 1502, after his marriage with Catherine of Aragon. From that period it was considered as the peculiar property of the Princes of Wales or their deputies, the Lords President of Wales, who held here their Courts of the Marches with great dignity and splendour. "Also the 4 judges of the councill have their lodgings here, and they and the president dine together, their charges being borne by the kinge; they have their cooke and all their necessary attendants and keepe 4 termes every year, when all law suites are determined; they have within the said castell a prison, a bowlinge greene, a tenis court, and stable roome for above 100 horses and quantitie of armes."—*Marmaduke Rawdon.*

The tenure of the Lords Marchers' office was peculiar, as the King's writ did not run in the Marches, but the Lord Marcher appointed his own sheriff. It was not the King's Peace, but the Lord Marcher's which malcontents broke: and this because though the King nominated the Marcher, he left him to fight his own battles and hold his position without other help, so that the deputy had almost plenary power. If but scanty evidence of this appears in charters, this arises from the King's reluctance to recognize such an 'imperium in imperio' if he could help it.

This lasted until 1688, when the office was abolished and the castle allowed to go to decay. But this intermediate period was the height of Ludlow's glory. Here Charles I. was entertained with much feasting and revelling, and here it was that 'Comus,' one of Milton's most beautiful creations, was written and acted in 1634, on the occasion of the appointment of the Earl of Bridgewater to the office of President of Wales. The incident that gave rise to it was as follows. Soon after the Earl of Bridgewater's arrival as Lord President, his sons Lord Brackley and Mr. Thomas Egerton, and his daughter, Lady Alice, were benighted in the Hay Wood, near Richard's Castle, at a distance of some three miles from Ludlow, and separated from the hill of the High Vinnals by a lovely sylvan dingle. Here they were for a short time lost altogether. On their reaching Ludlow, Milton wrote his 'Masque of Comus,' which was then and there set to music by Henry Lawes, who, with the heroes of the adventure, took the principal parts. Sir Henry Sydney, father of Sir Philip Sydney, was the last occupant of the castle previous to its being taken by the parliamentary force in 1646. Sir Henry was President of the Council of Wales from 1559 to 1581, and at the Restoration this office was conferred on the Earl of Carbery, under whose patronage Samuel Butler en-

joyed the office of steward or seneschal, and wrote, in a chamber over the gateway, the first portion of his 'Hudibras.'

From the eventful history of Ludlow, and the numerous people that tenanted it at various times, the so called Castle Palace, as may readily be imagined, is of various dates in its style.

"An aunciente seate, yet many buildings newe
Lord President made, to give it greater fame."

The ruins, as they stand at present, consist of a large base court or "outer bailey" encircled by walls, and are entered on the S. side by a gateway. To the l. as the visitor enters, is a range of buildings called the Stabling, of the date of Queen Anne. On the opposite side of the court is a tower now used as a Volunteer armoury, and to the l. of it is the old Court of Record for the Marches. The inner court, approached by a drawbridge over the dry moat which divides it from the outer ward, is entered across a bridge of 2 arches, and by a gateway built by Sir Henry Sydney of Penshurst, who also added the coats of arms of Queen Elizabeth and himself with the Latin inscriptions over the gateway arch. The first floor of the Keep Tower is Norman, though much pulled about, with evident traces of a better staircase on the left side than the later well staircase. At the N.W. of the inner court are the great tower and apartments, of the date of the founder in the 12th centy. Here, too, are the scanty remains of the circular chapel, said to be of very early date, which has a Norm. moulding on the outside, and is entered by a Norm. doorway. The interior contains 14 blocked Norm. arcades. In Grose's time, the chapel was profusely decorated with armorial bearings on panels, and was connected by a covered way with the state apartments. On the E. side of the inner court is a suite of state apartments, said to have been built by Roger de Mortimer, paramour of the queen of Edward II. From a room at the S. end of this suite, a covered way is traditionally believed to have extended to Wigmore Castle, 8 m. distant. Near it is the window into which the Scottish prince was nearly drawn, and to the W. of this again is the Banqueting Hall, where 'Comus' was performed, formerly entered by a flight of marble steps. There is some fine Dec. work in this hall, which is lighted by narrow trefoil-headed windows with transoms. The lower hall has an Elizabethan fireplace. Near the keep-tower is the well, now 85 ft. deep, but formerly 150 ft. It is fed by a spring in Whitecliffe woods, whence Sir H. Sydney laid a lead pipe. At the bottom of the keep is the dungeon, in which the prisoners were let down through an iron grating. The fore part of this apartment was once the chapel, and still contains some traces of Norm. arcades. Ascend the keep for the sake of the view, which is very charming. The interior of the outer courtyard is nicely kept, and is the head-quarters of the Archers of the Teme.

The *church*, dedicated to St. Lawrence, is one of the noblest parish churches in England. It is a fine late Perp. building, with a lofty tower, which, from its own height and the elevation of the ground, is a very conspicuous landmark for miles around. It is cruciform, having nave, side aisles, choir, transepts, and side chapels, with the lofty central tower rising from the intersection. The original ch. seems, in the 12th centy., to have occupied the site of the chancel of the present ch. The rebuilding was carried on several years into the 13th centy., and additions were made early and late in the 14th centy., when the guild of Palmers incorporated in Edward I.'s. reign at Ludlow, became rich, and

the ch. collegiate, but it is plain that a Norm. building existed previously, and that its extent was identical with that of the present nave. It is said that, when this ch. was enlarged, the "low" or mound which gave the town a portion of its name (Leode-hlœw, or the people's hill) was levelled and bones discovered in it. These were stated by the clergy to be the bones of St. Brendan, with those of his father and mother. The ch. was then enlarged, and during the process of restoration, in 1860, by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*, the foundations of this old 12th-centy. ch., which preceded the present one, were discovered. The S. entrance is by a beautiful hexagonal embattled porch, something like that of St. Mary Redcliffe ch., Bristol. This was restored by Lord Boyne. The view from the W. door is very fine, embracing the nave and chancel arches, the lantern, 80 feet high, and the magnificent stained E. window. The nave is divided from the aisles by 6 pointed arches, springing from clustered pillars. The roof is of oak, ornamented with large gilt bosses, and that of the choir is illuminated with green and red. The choir is lighted by 5 Perp. windows, containing full-length figures of bishops and other ecclesiastics; but the chief glory of the ch. is the E. window, representing the martyrdom of St. Lawrence. It was originally the gift of Spofford, Bishop of Hereford 1421-1448, and, after undergoing great mutilation, was well restored, in 1828, by *Evans* of Shrewsbury. It occupies the whole breadth of the chancel, and is in 65 compartments, displaying the life, miracles, and martyrdom of the saint, including his being broiled on a gridiron. Notice the 7th compartment, in which the idols are represented as falling to pieces in his presence. Beneath the window is a beautiful carved stone reredos, restored by subscription at the instance of the last Lord Dungannon. Among the monuments in the choir are recumbent effigies of Edm. Walter and his wife. He was Chief Justice of three shires in Wales, and one of the Council of the Marches in 1592. There are also monuments to Ambrosia Sydney, fourth daughter of the Rt. Hon. Sir H. Sydney, President of the Council, and to Lady Mary, his wife, daughter of the Duke of Northumberland, who died in Ludlow Castle, 1574. The canopies of the choir, of carved oak, are a memorial to the Rev. J. Phillips, the late rector and energetic restorer of the ch., by his widow. To the S. of the altar are sedilia and a piscina; and on each side the chancel are stalls for the officiating priests of the adjoining chapel of St. John. This is N. of the choir, and is entered from the transept by a carved screen. It contains some old glass in rather a fragmentary condition, and the tombs of Sir John Brydgeman, chief justice of Cheshire, and his wife. He was the last President but one of the Court of the Marches. They are conjectured to have been the work of *Fanelli*, who was much employed in England during the reign of Charles I. The S. chapel also contains a little antique glass, representing a genealogical history of the Prophets. In the N. transept is a fine organ by *Schweuzer*, and in the S. transept is a recumbent monument to Dame Mary Eyre, wife of Lord Eyre, President of the Marches. The W. seven-light window (by *Willement*) is modern, and is filled with mediæval figures or persons connected with the history of Ludlow, such as Richard, Duke of York; Edward IV.; Arthur, Prince of Wales; Montgomerie, Fitzwarine, Joce de Dinan, &c. The colouring of the dresses is particularly rich. Notice the curious manner in which the W. doorway interrupts the window.

The ch.-yd., which is supported on

the N. by a portion of the old wall, is beautifully kept and planted, and commands a noble view up the vales of the Corve and Ony, with the Titterstone and Brown Clee Hills on the E. Within its precincts is a fine old *timbered house*, of the date of the 17th cenry., as testified by the inscription on it of "A.D. 1616, Thomas Kaye." It is the official residence of the Reader, who, however, does not occupy it. On the opposite side is the *Hosier Almshouse*, for old widows and widowers, originally founded in 1486. The approach to the ch. from the town at its south entrance is by a passage now crowded with houses, but still retaining the name of the "Skallens" or "Kalends," which Sir G. C. Lewis and other enquirers in 'Notes and Queries' have indubitably identified with the ancient lych gate.

The *Lane Asylum* is another timbered house, date 1672. It was built from moneys left by the Ludford family, and is still kept up partly from this fund and partly by subscription.

A coach-house near the castle was formerly the chancel of an *old chapel*, known as the College, and still contains moulded ribs of the date of the 12th cenry. The *Grammar School* is the oldest in the county, and was founded by the Palmer's Guild, to whom the town owes the church and other ecclesiastical charities. A master and usher represent the school foundation, whilst the ch. is indebted to the guild for a lecturer and a reader, in supplement of the rector and his curates. Amongst the alumni of this ancient foundation school may be named the late Thomas Wright, M.A. and F.S.A., the author of the History of Ludlow, the History (for the Camden Society) of its Churchwardens' Accounts and various other antiquarian and archæological works. The charter of this guild was given by Edward I.; but when it was dissolved in the reign of Edward VI., all its charities were transferred to the town and vested in the corporation. Amongst other old buildings, is the Bull Inn, containing some good panelling; also the Feathers Hotel, a quaint, old-fashioned black-and-white timbered hostelry. Of the 7 gates by which Ludlow was formerly entered, only one is left, about halfway down Broad-st., on the road to Ludford. At the top of Broad-st. is the *Butter Cross*, a building now appropriated to the borough records. Ludlow also contained an establishment for Austin friars, 1282, and one for Carmelite friars.

The *Museum*, adjoining the Assembly Rooms, is remarkably interesting, and contains an unusually fine collection of fossils, principally of the Silurian rocks in the neighbourhood, which have been thoroughly investigated by the local geologists and the Woolhope Natural History Society. The visitor will find very good specimens of Old Red fishes, including Pteraspis and Eurypterus. There are also some antiquities from Uriconium, and some MSS. belonging to the old Ludlow guilds of the Hammermen and Stitchers' Companies, with the money-boxes in which their contributions were placed. Amongst the natives of Ludlow was Mr. Thomas Johnes, of Hafod, who flourished in the last cenry., and was the translator of Froissart's 'Chronicles.'

Immediately across the river Teme, which here separates Shropshire from a small nook and corner of Herefordshire, is the House of *Ludford*, the old-fashioned seat of the Charltons (John Lechmere Meyrick Parkinson, Esq.), which formed part of the Hospital of St. John in the 13th cenry., founded by a burgess of Ludlow named Peter Undergood, and endowed with St. Giles's House in

Ludford. It was granted after the Dissolution to the Earl of Warwick, of whom it was purchased by William Fox, M.P., Secretary to the Council of the Marches, who added a chantry to Ludford Church, within which he was buried in 1554, and by his family sold, in 1667, to the Charltons, a branch of the family of Apley Castle, near Wellington. Of this ancient family were Sir Robert Charlton, who suffered much by his loyalty to Charles I.; Sir Job Charlton, Speaker in 1685 and a Judge of the Common Pleas, who entertained James II. here in great state in 1687, and was by that monarch created a baronet, a title which became extinct in 1784. Sir Job founded a hospital here in 1672 for poor persons. From the last of the Charltons the property passed, about twenty years ago, to John Lechmere, their cousin, the second son of Vice-Admiral Lechmere of Steeple Aston, and after him to his sister Mrs. Monro. The ancient house is approached through an Edwardian archway leading into a quadrangle, chiefly of offices. The reception rooms face the lawn or garden front. The *ch.* contains Sir Job's effigy, reclining in his judicial robes; and there are other noticeable tablets. The *bridge* which connects the two counties is very ancient, and is mentioned by Leland. "There be three fayre arches in this bridge over Teme, and a pretty chapel upon it of St. Catherine. It is about a hundred years since this bridge was built; men passed afore by a ford a little beneath."

The geology of the Ludlow district is especially interesting, but it will be sufficient here to direct attention to the salient points, of which details are given in the *Introduction* (p. viii).

At Ludford are displayed "the upper beds, forming the downward passage from the Old Red system; yellowish sandstones, of a very fine grain and slightly micaceous. The central part of the stratum is a battered mass of scales, ichthyodorulites, jaws, teeth, and coprolites of fishes. These, together with a few smaller testacea, are united by a gingerbread coloured cement, Many of the imbedded fragments are of a jet-black polish, others of a deep mahogany hue."—*Siluria.*

The cliffs on the W. side of the Teme are remarkably fine and precipitous, the ground on the summit of Whitecliffe being laid out with pleasant walks and seats.

Railways.—To Hereford, 23 m.; Church Stretton, 15 m.; Shrewsbury, 28 m.

Distances.—Bewdley, 18½ m.; Tenbury 10 m. (by Wooferton); Caynham, 3 m.; Whitton, 5½ m.; Clee Hills, 6 m.; Bitterley, 4 m.; Ludford, ½ m.; Downton, 5 m.; Leintwardine, 8 m.; Clungunford, 9 m.; Wigmore, 8 m.; Stokesay Castle, 6 m.

Excursions.—*α.* To Wigmore, returning by Croft Ambrey and Richard's Castle. *β.* To Downton and Leintwardine. *γ.* By Onibury to Stokesay, by rail (Rte. 1). *δ.* By Bitterley to Clee Hills, returning by Caynham (Rte. 3). *ε.* To Tenbury by rail (Wooferton Junc.), (Rte. 2).

α. The greatest portion of this excursion lies in Herefordshire. Cross the Teme to Ludford, and turn to the rt., up the Whitecliff Road, which ascends the beautiful hill of *Mary Knoll*, or St. Mary's Knoll, because a devotional figure of the Virgin stood near here for the benefit of travellers. The first portion may be shortened by going through the park. At the summit of Mary Knoll, the road descends into the valley between Bringewood Chase on rt., and Vinnals Hill on l.: the latter a very beautiful eminence, ornamented with a striking plantation of timber. There is a splendid view from the top.

3½ m. Close to *Aston* are 2 tumuli. The *ch.* is a good specimen of Anglo-Norm.; the round arch, separating nave and chancel, and the tympanum are ornamented. The latter represents the lamb with the cross in a circular compartment in the middle, supported by a winged griffin and cow.

5 m. Elton, and *Elton Hall* (Mrs. Salwey). The *ch.* has a lion and unicorn of Elizabethan date. In the chancel are buried members of the old Herefordshire and Wiltshire family of Dansey distinctly said to have sprung from Dauntsey in Wilts.

1½ m. to rt. is *Burrington* on the Teme, where the geologist will find beautiful specimens of Calymene Blumenbachii. The *ch.* contains some cast-iron tablets to the Knight family.

6½ m. *Leinthall Starkes.* Notice here the fine old yew-trees in ch-yd. The largest measures 20½ ft. at 5 ft. from the ground. Tradition states that the bell of Leinthall ch. was formerly hung on one of the branches.

8 m. *Wigmore*, a decayed town, once the abode of the warlike Mortimers. The castle of this family, which occupies such a distinguished place in the annals of English history, and which ultimately obtained the Crown in the person of Edward IV., stands on a commanding eminence beyond and above the church and town, a ruin the remains of which are sufficient to show the strength and importance of this once princely residence. The outward wall is the most perfect, though of this a very considerable part is destroyed. Within the area, on a high artificial hill, are the remains of the keep, chiefly consisting of massive fragments overlooking the country to the N. and E. When the original fortress was founded is unknown; but there was certainly a mound here before the time of Edward the Elder, who is recorded to have repaired Wigmore. Mr. G. T. Clark considers that a Norman Lord, at the end of the 11th or beginning of 12th centy., first superseded the timber palisades of the English keep with a polygonal keep, and the curtain walls of the inner ward. Much of the extant masonry, with the exception of the Norman Shell keep and wall, is of Decorated date, mostly built originally on the Norman outlines. In the early 14th centy. the whole was restored in a complete and substantial fashion. "It is impossible to contemplate the massive ruins of Wigmore Castle, situate on a hill in an amphitheatre of mountains, whence its owner could survey his vast estates, from his square palace with 4 corner towers, on a keep at the S.W. corner of his double-trenched outworks, without reflecting on the instability of the grandeur of a family whose ambition and intrigues made more than one English monarch uneasy on his throne; yet not a memorial remains of their sepulture."—*Camden.*

The immense estates of the Mortimers continued part of the Royal domain until the 17th centy., when Wigmore and a large tract of the surrounding country was granted to the Harleys, of whom the Lord Treasurer, on his elevation to the peerage, was created Earl of Oxford, Earl Mortimer, and Baron Harley of Wigmore.

The *church*, formerly attached to the wealthy abbey, founded 1179 for monks of the order of St. Austin, is a Romanesque building, with Dec. additions, standing on the pinnacle of a hill, close to a precipice, whose chasms are filled by large trees. It exhibits some herring-bone masonry and has a good Dec. roof, with curious stall wood-work inside. The Grange and Abbey of Wigmore lie a mile or so to the N. of the old town and castle. Round the farm-house occupying the site of the ecclesiastical ruins are the ancient

great barn, the tradition of the Abbot's hall-window, and fragments of shafts, capitals and mouldings, vestiges of the foundation for Austin Canons begun by Hugh de Mortimer, who died a canon of the house, and finished by his heir. A detached building seemingly of the 14th centy. has been supposed to be a subterranean communication with the castle, but is more probably a vast stone sewer in the careful masonry of early days.

Should the tourist wish, he can proceed to the *Hopton Heath Stat.* of the Central Wales Rly., passing through Leintwardine.

2½ m. to the S.E. of Wigmore, overlooking the village of Leinthall Earl's, is the escarpment and ancient British fortress of *Croft Ambrey*, of an elliptical form, with a double ditch and rampart, filled with noble and venerable ash and beech trees, and named after Ambrosius, a celebrated British hero, traces of whose name and fame and personality occur in the early earthwork of Epping Forest, still called Ambresbury after the same ancient Briton. "The magnificent fortresses of Croft Ambrey and Wapley, scarcely 7 m. asunder, are undoubtedly British erections. These are the most southern of Caractacus' interior line of camps, which commences in the N. at Hên Dinas."—*Sal. Ant.* On the southern slopes of the Ambrey is *Croft Castle*, the beautiful residence of the Rev. W. Kevill Davies, and the seat of the ancient family of Croft from the days of Edward the Confessor to the reign of George III., when it was sold by Sir H. Croft to Mr. Johnes, who made this picturesque spot his residence before he lavished his wealth on Hafod. Sir John Croft, who married a daughter of Owain Glyndwr,—Sir Jas. Croft, a distinguished soldier in the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth, condemned for a participation in Wyatt's rebellion, but pardoned by Elizabeth and afterwards entrusted by her with very important offices,—and Herbert Croft, Bishop of Hereford 1661-91, were each proprietors of this estate.

The park is celebrated for its beautiful timber, particularly its oaks and Spanish chestnuts, and from its higher elevations commands most extensive views.

About 2¼ m. from Croft Ambrey the high road from Leominster to Ludlow is joined at *Orleton*, 5 m. from Ludlow. This was the birthplace of Adam de Orleton, Bishop of Hereford 1317-27, one of the most active agents of the barons in their wars against Edward II. When application was made to him by the governors of Berkeley in reference to the murder of the king, he is said to have returned this oracular reply, the ambiguity of which lies in its optional punctuation :—

"Edvardum occidere nolite timere bonum est."

Having gained the favour of Edward III. so far as to be employed as ambassador to France, he was translated to Winchester diocese, where he died 1345. Thomas Blount, author of 'Jocular Tenures,' a 'Law Dictionary,' and other works, was a native of this parish, and died here 1679. Orleton Court an old timber mansion of the 16th centy., curious for its external quaintness as well as the arched and panelled beams and fine carved mantelpieces of its principal chambers, is still possessed by his lineal descendant, William Blount, of Orches Hill, Berks, a bencher of Gray's Inn. Another and earlier timbered house of eight gables claims to have given birth to Adam de Orleton. From Orleton the tourist may proceed to WOOFFERTON JUNC. Stat., and by rail to Ludlow, or else by road 1½ m. to *Richard's Castle*, where the county of Salop is re-entered.

1 m. to the l., in a pretty dingle under the Vignals, are the ruins of

the *Castle*, erected in the reign of Edward the Confessor, probably by Richard Scrupe or Scrob, whose grandson, Hugo Fitz Osborne, in the reign of Henry I., married Eustachia de Saye, and left her surname to his descendants, one of whom married a Mortimer. Sir John Talbot, a member of the Eccleswall line, was the son of Sir Richard Talbot by Joan de Mortimer, a coheiress of Richard's Castle: which was granted by Edward VI. to Nicholas Bishop of Worcester, and leased to Rowland Bradshaw; by him it was sold (according to Blount) to Richard Salway, in whose family it still continues. Some part of the keep and walls still remain, yet so concealed by the luxuriant wood about them as scarcely to be discovered until they are nearly approached. Upon the eminence near the castle a body of Royalists, under Sir T. Rundesford, was defeated in 1645 by an inferior force, commanded by Col. Birch.

Underneath the castle is a *Bone-well*. "Beneath this castle, Nature, which nowhere disporteth itself more in stirring wonders than in waters, hath brought forth a pretty well, which is always full of little fish-bones, or as some think of small frog-bones, although they be from time to time drawn quite out of it, whence it is called Bonewell."—*Camden.*

Drayton also notices it:—

> "With strange and sundry tales
> Of all their wondrous things: and not the least of Wales
> Of that prodigious spring (his wondering as he past)
> That little fishes bones continually doth cast."
> —7th Book.

This phenomenon is explained by Sir R. Murchison. "It results from the usual sloping position of the Ludlow Rocks, which, whilst it desiccates the higher parts of the ridges, tends to produce natural springs near the foot of these inclined planes, wherever the strata are affected by faults near the junction of the rock and old red sandstone. The faults, however, act here particularly as dams to the water, and occasion springs."

The *church*, a fine old structure adjoining the castle, has some beautiful painted glass. It is also memorable as having a detached belfry, formerly surmounted by a spire, which was destroyed by fire before the time of Blount's MS. History.

Immediately under the crest of the Vignals is *Hay Park*, a richly-wooded valley of 1500 acres, rendered memorable as the scene of Milton's 'Comus,' where the Earl of Bridgewater's children were benighted as they were on their way—

> "to attend their father's state
> And new entrusted sceptre."

The small stream which runs through it is called the "Sunny Gutter," where—

> "Fairies at bottom trip
> By dimpled brook and fountain trim."

The pedestrian should not omit ascending the *Vinnals*, Vignals or Vignolles, from the summit of which the panoramic view is very extensive, embracing most of the Shropshire and Radnorshire hills.

1 m. from Richard's Castle (on rt.) is *Moor Park* (Jonas Foster, Esq.), purchased from the Lyttletons in 1650, by Richard Salwey, a Major in the Parliamentary army, ambassador to Constantinople 1654, and M.P. from 1650-60, with whose descendants it continued down to 1874, when it was sold to Mr. Foster, who has rebuilt the mansion. (*Handbook for Herefordshire.*)

From hence it is 2 m. to Ludlow.

β. To Downton and Leintwardine the Wigmore road is followed over Mary Knoll to within 1 m. of Aston, then turn to the rt. over Burrington Common and cross the Teme at Bow Bridge to the village of *Downton*, beautifully situated on the l. bank of the Teme, which here serpen-

tines through a most picturesque glen. There is a camp immediately opposite the bridge.

About 1½ m. higher up the glen, and 6 m. from Ludlow, is *Downton Castle* (A. R. Boughton Knight, Esq.), erected 1774-8 by the celebrated scholar, Richard Payne Knight, and subsequently the seat of his brother, Andrew Knight, 27 years president of the Royal Horticultural Society, to whom the horticulture of England and the Pomona of Herefordshire are so largely indebted. The castle stands on an elevated bank, surrounded by an extensive amphitheatre of wood, admitting occasional peeps over a varied and beautiful country. The building is composed of a micaceous sandstone, raised on the estate, and is ornamented with Gothic towers and battlements without, and with Grecian ceilings, colours, and entablatures within—a singularity of formation which entailed much severe criticism on the taste of the classic owner. In a subsequent publication, 'An Analytical Enquiry into the Principles of Taste,' he observed, "that though his example had not been much followed, he had every reason to congratulate himself upon the success of the experiment, he having at once the advantage of a picturesque object and of an elegant and convenient building, though less perfect in both respects than if he had executed it at a maturer age. It has, moreover, the advantage of receiving alterations and additions in almost every direction, without any injury to its genuine and original character." The castle has been somewhat altered by the present owner, Andrew Johnes Rouse Boughton Knight, Esq., who has substituted stone mullions for the sash windows. The interior is fitted up with great taste, and there is a well-selected gallery of pictures, by eminent masters, the most important of which are :—

The Cradle Picture (from the Orleans Gallery).—*Rembrandt.* The Assassin, or Rembrandt's Cook.—*Rembrandt.* The Holy Family.—*Rembrandt.* A Horse.—*Vandyck.* Dog and Cat. Cock and Hen.—Both by *Snyders.* Head of Grotius.—*Rubens.* Three Landscapes.—*A. and P. Wouvermans.* Ruth and Boaz.—*Teniers.* Woman Spinning.—*G. Dow.* Landscape with Sunset, and Cattle Drinking.—*A. Pynaker.* Rape of the Sabines.—*Elsheimer.* Landscape.—*Titian.* Diana visiting the Tomb of Endymion.—*Titian.* Portrait of a Lady of the Malapieri Family.—*Giorgone.* Portrait of Cardinal Bernardo di Divitio.—*Raphael.* Adoration of Shepherds.—*A. Mantegna.* Time admonishing Beauty.—*Domenichino.* Landscape.—*Claude.* Portrait of Cistercian Monk.—*Spagnoletto.*

The course of the Teme through the grounds, a length of 3 m., is surpassed in the beauty and wildness of its scenery by very few villages in England.

"The best approach to every beauteous scene
Is when it's least expected or foreseen;
Where nought occurs to anticipate surprise
Or bring the landscape piecemeal to the eyes."—*R. P. Knight.*

The so-called Downton walks abound in rare lichens and fungi; which render them a favourite rendezvous of the Woolhope and kindred field clubs.

The rustic bridge at the Hay Mill has almost a Swiss character. On the banks of the Teme, below the castle, are the remains of an iron forge, from which large fortunes were derived by the grandfather of Mr. Payne Knight, and his partner Mr. Walker. The ore was in those days conveyed by horses and mules from Staffordshire to be smelted in the timber-abounding district of Downton.

From hence the tourist may either follow the road to Ludlow by Oakley Park and Bromfield, or proceed to *Hopton Heath Stat.*, passing through

2½ m. *Leintwardine*, a well-built village, pleasantly situated at the junction of the Teme with the Clun. The Red Lion is a comfortable *Inn*, much praised by anglers who frequent this spot for trout and grayling fishing. *Tickets* for the preserved waters are obtained from the landlord of the inn, on payment of a small fee to the funds of the club, which has always been regarded as conferring valuable privileges on its members.

Leintwardine moreover claims to be identical with the Roman station of Bravinium, the vallum of which is traceable in the lines of the town ditch, and, after passing the chancel of the ch., runs parallel with the Watling Street. Roman bricks and pottery, with other relics, have been found in the village; a mile and a half from which, across the river, is Brandon Camp, while Coxwall Knoll, a Silurian battle-ground, lies on the Shropshire bank of the Teme, nearer to Walford and Brampton Bryan.

The Perp. *church*, restored in 1865, is a handsome building, consisting of a lofty nave, with clerestory, aisles, chancel, and good sedilia. The steeple is over the S. porch. The font is of earlier date. In the chancel is a monument to Gen. Sir B. Tarleton, M.P. for Liverpool, 1790-1812. The reredos was much admired by Mr. Blore.

From Ludlow the rly. continues its course, in a N.W. direction, up the vale of the Teme for a short distance, and then up that of the Ony. A mineral branch to Clee Hill is given off on the rt. immediately after leaving the station, and the Corve is crossed close to its junction with the Teme.

26 m. (from Hereford) is *Bromfield Stat.*, the Ludlow race-course being hard by on rt. The village is to the l., and contains an interesting *ch.* belonging to the ancient *Priory* of *Bromfield*. It consists of E. Eng. nave with N. aisle, and a tower at the W. end of the aisle, its lower portion forming a porch. At the E. and N. of the chancel are two large plain Norman blocked arches, showing apparently that the ch. was once cruciform. On the S. side of the ch. are some domestic buildings, probably remnants of a house built out of the conventual erection. There is also an arched gateway remaining. Bromfield was a Benedictine monastery, founded early in the 12th cent., and was annexed to the Abbey of St. Peter's, at Gloucester, in 1155. A chapelry (Halford) of Bromfield, an old church, with nave, chancel and small tower, lies nearer Craven Arms on the bank of the Teme. Close to Bromfield village is

Oakley Park (Baron Windsor, whose father's family has been seated here since the reign of Henry II.). In the interior of the house, which is beautifully situated, overlooking the Teme, is a gallery, supporting an entablature, the frieze of which is taken from the Phygalian marbles discovered by Mr. Cockerell. The park is splendidly wooded, and contains some oaks known as "the Druidical Oaks." There is also much fine ornamental timber, including Spanish chesnut, silver spruce firs, *Pinus cembra*, *P. Douglasii*, *Wellingtonia gigantea*, &c., besides groves and clumps of very ancient oaks. Connected with the parish of Bromfield and the part of it lying in the direction of Downton Castle is a legend of certain "Crawl Meadows" which were the sole dower her angry sire would give to a devoted maiden, determined to bestow herself on a pennyless knight. She was to be cut off with so much land as she could crawl over betwixt night and morning; and under the influence of love, zeal, and staunch endeavour, managed within the prescribed time to reach half-way to Downton. The

story is a curious parallel to that of the "Tichborne Dole."

Nearly 1 m. rt. of the stat., on the border of the Corve, is *Staunton Lacy*, minutely described in Domesday as belonging to Roger de Lacy, with whose powerful family it remained till two coheiresses, Matilda and Margaret, in 1241 carried the de Lacy lands to John de Verdon and Geoffrey de Genevill. The *ch.* is cruciform, and is supposed to be earlier than the Conquest. In the nave and N. transept is Romanesque work, marked by pilaster steps—and the chancel is E. Eng. "Here are some very important Dec. alterations. From the lantern arches being of that date, while the upper part of the tower is E. Eng., we may infer that the upper part was an addition to the Romanesque structure, and that it was afterwards underpinned and the Dec. arches inserted. At the same time a S. aisle was added to the nave, and other alterations made in detail."—*Camb. Arch. Journ.* The ch. has been restored, and possesses a handsome reredos, a pulpit of Caen stone, and a stained-glass window by *Evans*.

"Stanton Lacy was formerly free from hundredal subjection. Its seigneural lords claimed to have a gallows, to hold pleas of bloodshed and hue and cry and to assize beer: as well as under writ of right to try all civil causes within their jurisdiction."—*Anderson.*

28 m. At *Onibury Stat.* the dale becomes contracted and very prettily wooded to

31 m. CRAVEN ARMS JUNC., where the Central Wales, the Bishop's Castle, and the Wenlock rlys. join the main line (Rte. 6). On the hill to the l. is *Sibdon Castle*, the seat of J. Baxter, Esq. The antiquary must retrace his steps for 1 m. to the fine old castle of *Stokesay*, an extremely interesting relic, which is a striking object on the rt. of the rly. This is one of the finest examples in England of a castellated mansion of the 13th cent.—a record existing, in 1291, of "permission given to Lawrence de Ludlow to crenellate his castle of Stokesay." The courtyard is of an irregularly oblong form, and once contained a covered well, now destroyed. On the W. side, opposite the fine old timber gate-tower, is the house, the tower at the S. end of which is connected by a passage with the centre of the main building, formed by the hall. The tower is an irregular polygon of three stories, lighted by lancet windows, and surmounted by a battlemented parapet. In the lower story the openings of the windows are placed obliquely, so as to prevent the assailants shooting their arrows inside. The hall is 51 ft. by 31 ft., and lighted on the W. by four large windows looking over the moat. It has a fine open-work timber roof, resting on large upright stone corbels with E. E. mouldings. At the S. end a square trefoil-headed doorway leads to the lower apartments of this wing. The principal apartment or solar, which is over the cellar and in the N. wing, has a good 16th-centy. fireplace, and is lighted by no fewer than 8 windows. In this room the stone arch is surmounted by an elaborately carved mantelpiece, which, with the wainscot which covers the walls, is not earlier than Charles II. Adjoining the hall is the cellar, from which a tower with very thick walls projects over the moat. There is a fine gate-tower of timber, the upper story projecting over the lower, and adorned with rather grotesque carvings. The tower and hall are partly in ruins and partly used for farm offices. From the nature of the buildings and the position, Stokesay was evidently not intended for an offensive fortress, but merely for a

strong domestic residence. The history of Stokesay is not very important. From the De Ludlows it came into the possession of the Vernons of Haddon Hall, and then to the Earls of Craven. During the Civil War it was garrisoned for the king, but surrendered to the Parliamentarians after a short siege. On the brow of the wooded hill to the E. is a large rectangular earthwork, known as *Norton Camp*. There are also traces of defensive works on the other side the valley at Yeo or *View Edge*.

Craven Arms, now an important railway junction, is a roadside *Inn*, placed at the junction of the Shrewsbury, Ludlow, and Knighton roads. It is, however, a convenient halting-place for the geologist, or the tourist, who wishes to explore Corvedale, Apedale, or the scenery of Wenlock Edge. The botanist will find in this neighbourhood *Lathræa squamaria* (Norton Camp), *Myrrhis odorata* (Stokesay), *Epipactis grandiflora*, *Paris quadrifolia*, *Polygonum viviparum*, *Astrantia major* (Stoke Wood).

At the village of Wistanstow, a little further on, where the nave and transepts of the fine old cruciform churches have recently undergone restoration, and a carved oak roof of Perp. work has been brought to light, the branch to Much Wenlock is given off on rt. (Rte. 6). *Wistanstow Hall* (W. Phillips, Esq.).

"At 35½ m. *Marshbrook Stat.*, the valley begins to close in again.

On rt., 1 m, is *Acton Scott Ch.* and *Hall* (Mrs. Stackhouse Acton, one of the daughters of T. Andrew Knight of Downton Castle, and a contributor to the illustrations of his 'Pomona Herefordensis.'). Acton Scott Hall is said to have been built in 1567 by Edward Acton, and its resemblance to the White Hall, Shrewsbury, begun in 1576, favours this surmise.

The wooded banks on each side the valley soon give place to a more open valley bounded by lofty hills, the culminating points of which are seen to great advantage at

38 m. *Church Stretton Stat.* (*Hotel:* Church Stretton, good). This is a most picturesque little spot, lying directly under and on the slopes of the steep sides of the *Longmynd*, which, with its deep gullies and cross valleys, forms the most important range of mountains in Shropshire, rising to the height of from 1400 to 1600 ft. Immediately opposite are the hills of Ragleth, Hope Bowdler, Caer Caradoc, and the Lawley, all nearly as high, but more broken in their outline. These chains of eminences afford to the lover of scenery ample reasons for making Church Stretton his head-quarters—though it is principally to the geologist that the neighbourhood is so deeply interesting. Speaking of the Longmynd, Sir Roderick Murchison says, "This semi-mountainous mass is found to be composed of the most ancient recognizable sediments of the British Isles. Ranging from N.N.E. to S.S.W., they stand boldly out from beneath the surrounding Silurian deposits, of which they form the mineral axis. The lowest strata of the Longmynd, or those forming the base of their eastern escarpment, range along the western side of the Stretton valley. The whole of the series can be well observed, together with the order of superposition, along the banks of the small brook which descends by the Carding-mill to Church Stretton, and in other parallel transverse gullies. Quartz veins occur here and there—but, on the whole, these strata consist of sandstone rock, both schistose and gritty, and often finely laminated, in which the lines of deposit, and even the rippled surfaces of the beds, are distinctly visible—the mass being scarcely affected by any slaty clearage."

For many years the beds of the Longmynd were believed to be utterly unfossiliferous, but Mr. Salter eventually found in them traces of fuci, some annelid or worm-tubes, and a portion of a trilobite, named Palæopyge. On the west flanks of the Longmynd, which extends into Montgomeryshire, is a very symmetrical ascending order of strata from the Cambrian rocks into those of the Lower Silurian; but on the E. or Church Stretton side there is a great fault estimated by Professor Ramsay at not less than 2000 ft, the place of the intervening strata being taken by igneous rocks. We find, therefore, that the Caradoc range, as it is called, consists of igneous and altered rocks, for the eruption, having taken place after the deposition of the sediments, has altered the schists into clay slates, and the sandstones into quartz rock. The only portion which has escaped the effects of this fault, is a small patch of Upper Silurian, or Wenlock limestone, that occurs at Botville, a little higher up the valley, and is curiously wedged between the Cambrian rocks of the Longmynd and those of the Caradoc group. The views from the summit of the Caradoc hills are very charming, ranging to the E. over the Wenlock Edge and the intervening valley of Apedale. To the N. the rounded boss of the Wrekin rises grandly up, and westward the view is bounded by the Longmynd range. This range also furnishes numbers of beautiful excursions, and particularly one to the village of *Ratlinghope*, a priory or cell of Wigmore as early as 1209, between 5 and 6 m. distant, the road lying up the gully known as the Devil's Mouth and then crossing the top of the hill at the *Portway*. This was an ancient British track leading from Castle Hill, near Lebotwood, to Billing's Hill, an entrenchment near Bishop's Castle. "A perambulation of this part of the forest, made in 1278, relating especially to Lydbury North, speaks of the king's highway on 'Longemunde,' which, no doubt, means the Portway."—*Wright.* Although the Longmynd range does not offer any very arduous task to the ordinary mountaineer, it has a reputation for being somewhat dangerous at times in consequence of fogs and the precipitous character of the passes. "The last fair in the year held at Church Stretton is popularly distinguished by the rather significant name of 'Dead Man's Fair,' on account, it is said, of the number of men who, after attending it, have perished in the attempt to return home over the hills in the dark nights of early winter." In 1865, the Rev. D. Carr, of Ratlinghope, nearly lost his life in a snowstorm, having been 24 hours on the hill. There are numerous camps and earthworks in the neighbourhood. They are to be found on the summit of Caer Caradoc, where are very perfect ditches 5 to 6 ft. deep; at *Brockhurst*, 1 m. below Church Stretton, and at *Bodbury Ring*, on the shoulder of the hill above—the latter a fortified British station, 47 paces from W. to E., and 95 paces from N. to S. The *Castle Ring*, above Ratlinghope, is oval, contains in its area 1½ acre, and is encircled by one ditch only, the general height of the vallum being about 10 ft. On W. and S. the ascent is precipitous, and the fosse slight; but on the E., where the ground falls gently, the works are more elevated. Another camp, due S. of Castle Ring, lies between it and Bilbilch Gutter, which two positions it connects. The Watling St. also runs up the valley in its course from Kenchester (Magna) to Wroxeter (Uriconium). The name of Stretton betokens its proximity. Church Stretton itself is a straggling little place, with the *ch.*, an old square-towered building, in the centre. It

is cruciform, with an image of St. Lawrence in the E. angle of the tower. The doorway is of Norm. date. In the interior is a carved oak figure of Christ and an E. window: subjects, St. Stephen, St. Peter, and St. John. The grounds and gardens of the Rectory are charmingly wooded, and abound in beautiful walks on the slopes of the hill. The old Market Hall, of black-and-white timbered work, like that at Wenlock, was built by Bonham Norton, a London stationer, in 1617, and taken down in 1839. At Church Stretton was born Dr. Roger Mainwaring, chaplain to Charles I. and Bp. of St. David's. It is a charming walk of 2 m. to *Hope Bowdler*, the ch. of which has been wholly rebuilt, to *All Stretton*, about 2 m. N., situated at the entrance to one of the gullies or "gutters;" or to *Horderley*, at the S.W. end of the Longmynd, where the scenery is most picturesque. At Stretton there was formerly a royal castle, on the site still known as Brockhurst Castle, Caer Caradoc, one of the later strongholds of the Silurian Caractacus, towers above the Rly. to the N.E. of the town.

Distances.—Shrewsbury, 13 m.; Hereford, 38; Craven Arms, 7; Stokesay, 8; Ratlinghope, 6; Hope Bowdler, 2; Cardington, 4.

At Church Stretton the watershed is crossed, and the stream runs N.

At 41½ m. *Lebotwood Stat.*, occasional glimpses of a deserted coal-pit show that the tourist is traversing the Shrewsbury coal-field. (*Introduction*, p. viii.) A quarter of a mile W.N.W. of Lebotwood ch. is the *Castle Hill*, believed by Mr. Hartshorne to have been an exploratory mound, partly natural but more largely artificial. It is 40 ft. above the plain, and 265 ft. in length. It was connected by the Portway with Billing's Hill, 2 miles S.E. of Bishop's Castle.

[1 m. from Lebotwood, on rt., is *Longnor Hall* (Col. Corbett), and 5 m. to E. of that is *Acton Burnell*, the seat of Sir C. F. Smythe, Bart., whose ancestry have held it from Charles II.'s time, when Sir Edward Smythe, Knt., of Durham, married the heiress of Sir Richard Lee, of Acton Burnell. The house is a fine Grecian building of white stone, overlooking a beautifully wooded park and the distant hills of the Lawley and the Wrekin. Near the house are the ruins of the ancient *castle* of *Acton Burnell*, of the date of the latter part of the 13th centy., with geometrical tracery in the windows and mouldings of somewhat later Dec. style. Mr. Parker points out the great resemblance between Acton Burnell and the Bishop's Palace at Wells, both by the same builder. In shape it is a parallelogram, having a small square tower at each angle. The walls are very thick, and on the W. are lighted by small square windows. On the N. side is the hall, occupying an upper story, and lighted by three large transomed windows. The upper part of the S. side has been roofed over for a barn, but, in Mr. Parker's opinion, the private chapel would have stood here. The principal front and entrance are on the E. "Here it was that, when King Edward I. held his Parliament in 1283, the nobles were assembled, while the Commons sat in a large barn hard by. The memory of this event still lives in the statutes passed here, properly called 'Statutum de Mercatoribus,' but more particularly known as the Statute of Acton Burnell; of which Lord Campbell says that the subject was as well understood in Chancellor Burnell's days as in those of Lords Eldon and Lyndhurst. It was passed here on the 12th of October, and provided that debtors in London, York, and Bristol, should appear before the different

Mayors and agree upon a certain day of payment, otherwise an execution might be issued against their goods."—*Burke.* Only a couple of gables are left of the old Parliament House, the hall of the elder castle, which must have been the scene of the gathering, as the later castle was not commenced until the year after.

The founder of the castle and estate was Sir Robert Burnell, some time tutor to the Prince (afterwards Edward I.), who made him Bishop of Bath and Wells, and Lord Treasurer and Lord Chancellor of England, 1292. From his experience as a diplomatist, he was much employed by Edward I. in the affairs of the Welsh Marches. Philip Burnell, the Bishop's nephew and heir, was a spendthrift, and the family of the Burnells seems to have died out in the 15th centy., when the property came, through a daughter, to the Lovells, by one of whom it was forfeited on account of his loyalty to Richard III. It then fell to the Crown, and was granted by Henry VIII. to the Earl of Surrey, of Flodden renown. In the *ch.*, which adjoins the house, and is of singular interest and beauty, is a *brass* and effigy to Nicholas de Handlo, who assumed the name and married the heiress of the Burnells in 1360. About 1½ m. W. of Acton Burnell is the village of *Frodesley*, which possesses one of the oldest parish registers in Shropshire, commencing March 25, 1547. Frodesley Hall is an Elizabethan building, dated 1594, and built by Edward Scriven, whose son Richard received from Charles I., on one of his visits to Shropshire, the heirloom of a pair of embroidered gauntlets. The bracketing of the corners of the upper story is uncommon. It is now occupied as a farmhouse. The late Sir Herbert Edwardes, of Mooltan celebrity, was born at the Rectory. The ch. is modern. The Roman Watling Street runs for 2 miles through the parish.

From Acton Burnell the visitor may join the Severn Valley Rly. at *Cound Stat.*, 4 m. distant.

2 m. to the N. of Acton Burnell is *Pitchford* village, which derives its name from a natural bituminous spring. Marmaduke Rawdon of Yorke, in his tour (17th centy.), mentions it. "Thir is in this well four little hooles, about halfe a yard diep, out of which comes little lumps of pitch, but that which is att the tope of the well is softish, and swimes upon the water like tarr, but being skimd together itt incorporates and is knead together like soft wax and becomes hard. Of this pitch they brought some home with them, which the inhabitants say is more medicinall then other pitch. In the Holy Land there are some springs that cast up a bitumus stuffe like this." The *Hall* is the residence of J. Cotes, Esq., who acquired it by marriage with the heiress of the Earl of Liverpool, and is a very curious and picturesque old house of timber and plaster-work, built at the commencement of the 16th centy. by William Otley, Sheriff of the county, whose sire purchased the estate in 1473, and whose descendants held it till, at the death of the last of the name, it passed, in 1807, to the late Lord Liverpool. Sir Francis Otley, one of its owners, was the loyal governor of Shrewsbury in the Civil War. Her Majesty, when Princess Victoria, and the Duchess of Kent, stayed here with the Earl of Liverpool in 1832. The *ch.*, which is supposed to have been founded in the reign of Henry I. or Stephen, as certain bits of masonry in the walls seem to corroborate, contains an oak figure of a Crusader, in chain armour, supposed to be the effigy of one of the De Pychfords. There is here a

gigantic lime-tree, which for centuries has been used as a habitation].

A branch of it fell in 1828 containing 149, another in 1856, 93 cubic feet of timber.

A little before reaching *Dorrington Stat.*, 44¼ m. on l. of the line, is *Netley Hall* (T. H. Hope-Edwardes, Esq.). The rly. now runs parallel with the Cound Brook to 46½ m. *Condover Stat.*

1½ m. rt. is *Condover Park* (Reginald Cholmondeley, Esq.), formerly the seat of the Owens, whose ancestor, Thomas Owen, a Judge of Common Pleas, purchased it in the reign of Henry VIII. He also built the house, a fine Elizabethan mansion, on the banks of the Cound Brook. The *ch.* has a N. transept with very good Transition windows and buttresses, and a lofty square tower, and contains monuments to the Owen family, and one in particular by *Roubilliac* to Roger Owen, 1717. The village is ancient. The parish register dates from 1557.

To the l. of the rly. is Lyth Hill, and on the same side, nearer Shrewsbury, *Lythwood Hall* (—Scott, Esq.) From Shrewsbury records we find that Lythwood was a royal forest. Henry III. having granted a charter "to the lessees of the Hospital of St. Giles without Shrewsbury, that they have a horse-load of dried wood, out of his wood of Linewood, for firing.' The present Lythwood Hall was built by a Mr. Blakeway with a prize of 20,000*l.* which he won in a lottery in the last century. But the money soon went, and the property had to change hands. On the rt. of the rly. is *Bomer Pool*, a considerable sheet of water, on which grows *Scheuchzeria palustris*, a rare plant, and *Vaccinium oxycoccos*.

At *Coleham*, where the Locomotive Department of the Railway Company is maintained, a junction is formed with the Welchpool and the Severn Valley Rly., and directly afterwards with the Great Western from Wellington. The line now crosses the Severn and enters the general stat. of *Shrewsbury*, 51 m. (Rte. 8.)

ROUTE 2.

FROM LUDLOW TO BEWDLEY, BY WOOFERTON JUNCTION, TENBURY, AND CLEOBURY MORTIMER.

(Rail.)

From Ludlow to WOOFERTON JUNC. see Rte. 1. From hence a branch quits the main line, running parallel with the Teme River to

3 m. *Easton Court Stat.* (in Herefordshire).

On rt. is the pretty *ch.* of *Little Hereford*; it is for the most part of the date of Henry II., and possesses an early Norm. font, a piscina, sedilia, and over the chancel arch remains of a fresco painting of the Crucifixion. There are monuments to the Delameres, who were great benefactors to the ch. Bishop William of Hereford ordered masses for the soul of Wm. Delamere, "pro donatione et libertate ecclesiæ de Parva Hereford." There is a most singular piscina by the side of the chancel arch near its point, which was evidently connected with the rood-loft, of which the staircase still exists. In the chancel is a monument to the late Jos. Bailey, M.P. for the county. On l. is *Easton Court* (Edward Otto Partridge, Esq.), a seat of Sir J. Russell Bailey, Bart., which formerly belonged to the Delameres and then to the Danseys, from whom

it was purchased in 1840. In the library are some arm-chairs made out of the house at Leicester, where King Richard slept the night before Bosworth. In this parish, also, are *Ledwych Farm*, once belonging to the family of Benbow, of which Admiral Benbow was a member; and *Bleatherwood Court*, an old house built by Christopher Dansey, on his marriage with Sybil Delamere, temp. Henry VIII. *Upton Court* was an old seat of the Karvers. The course of the Teme is extremely pretty here, as at *Red Rock*, a little farther on. Crossing the Ledwyche, the rly. re-enters Salop at

4 m. *Burford House*, a seat of Lord Northwick, erected in the reign of George II. It has a short avenue of elm-trees in front. This estate came from the Mortimers to the family of Cornewall, who enjoyed it under the designation of Barons of Burford. The line ended in a daughter, who married a Legh of High Leigh (Rte. 19), by whom this property was sold to William Bowles, M.P. for Bewdley. The Lords of Burford held the land by barony, but were not summoned to Parliament, an exemption first claimed as a privilege, but afterwards lamented as a privation. In the reign of Henry III. Burford was a place of so much importance as to possess a weekly market and an annual fair of 3 days.

The E. Eng. *ch.*, consisting of a nave and chancel, with rather massive low western tower, though it has experienced extensive alterations, possesses many points of interest. Here is a very perfect piscina, an excellent Perp. font, encaustic tiles dug up from under the altar—and a niche discovered in a similar way under a monument. The screen which separates the organ from the chancel is beautifully carved, and came from Louvain. On the N. wall of the chancel extends a most interesting triptych, executed 1588 by Melchior Salaboss, on the outer surface of which the Apostles are portrayed in 12 compartments, while in the centre are full-sized paintings of Richard Cornewall and Janet his wife. Above is a representation of the heavenly host, and in a narrower panel underneath is the recumbent figure of Edmund Cornewall, the "Strong Baron," in his shroud. He was the son of Richard Cornewall, and 7 ft. 3 in. in height. Underneath a canopy in the chancel is the recumbent alabaster effigy of the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of John of Gaunt, sister of Henry IV., wife of John Holland, Duke of Exeter, and afterwards of Sir J. Cornewall, Lord Fanhope, a professional tilter in the reign of Henry IV. She died 1426, and was originally buried with her husband in Whitefriars Ch., London. Notice the elaborate and minute carving of the folds of the dress. In the churchyard is a wheel-cross on octagonal base, restored by the parishioners in 1867 in memory of Miss Rushout. Amongst the Chronicles of Burford is one of a fight between the parson and Geoffrey Young in 1292, in which the latter struck the parson on the head with a staff so that he died in 3 weeks. For this offence Young was outlawed, as he had no chattels to be forfeited. The Rectory is a charmingly picturesque (though modern) house near the ch. In the neighbourhood of Burford are *Nash Court* (G. Pardoe, Esq.), *Stoke House* (vacant), and *Court-of-Hill* (Mrs. Hill).

5½ m. *Tenbury Stat.* (in Worcestershire). Tenbury (Pop. 1890: *Hotel:* Swan; very good) derives its name from the river which divides Salop from Worcestershire, and is here crossed by a neat bridge of 6 arches. The town, which

possesses one or two old houses, such as the Royal Oak, in Broad Street, consists of 2 streets, the chief being Teme Street, crossing each other at rt. angles, and has a Spa, Corn Exchange, Workhouse, a Butter cross and a *ch.* within its limits. The tower and chancel are the only remains of the ancient ch. erected in the 11th centy. The nave was destroyed in November, 1770, by the overflowing of the Teme, which surrounds the ch.-yd. This injury was occasioned by digging a grave near the foot of a pillar supporting the roof between the nave and S. aisle, when the water, percolating through, undermined the column, and threw down that portion of the edifice. The church, which consists of nave, aisles, chancel, and west tower, has been carefully restored, and presents several objects of interest. The E. window of 5 lights and 2 single lights in the chancel are memorial windows of stained glass. The aisles are separated from the nave by 3 arches with clustered columns. A curious monument is preserved here—the effigy of a knight, only 30 inches long, clad in chain mail, with a surcoat and sword, and his legs crossed. It is on a raised tomb 3 ft. in length, within a canopy 8 ft. high, and is ascribed to Sir John Sturmy, who joined the Crusaders under Richard I. At the E. end of the S. aisle are 2 life-size recumbent figures of Thomas Acton, Esq., and his wife, on a richly carved base, erected in 1584. He is represented with his feet resting on a boar. The advowson of Tenbury belonged to the monastery of Sheen in Surrey, and after its suppression was possessed by Shakespeare's Sir Thomas Lucy, by whose descendants it was sold, in 1716, to Mr. Read, whose youngest daughter was the mother of Sir Thomas Lawrence.

A mineral spring was discovered here in 1839, by workmen sinking a well. The water sprung up suddenly from a bed of limestone, lying under a massive stratum of old red sandstone, 32 ft. below the surface. It contains chlorides of calcium and of sodium, magnesia, and bromine, with a trace of iodine, and has proved highly beneficial in scorbutic and cutaneous disorders. At the end of Teme Street, furthest from the bridge and station, a pump room, a reading room, and baths have been established for the convenience of invalids, and walks laid out on the banks of the small river Kyre.

The tourist should visit the Rev. Sir Frederick Ouseley's magnificent *ch.* of *St. Michael*, about 2 m. from Tenbury on the Leominster road. It is a splendid example of Dec. architecture, and is gorgeously fitted up. The organ is one of the best in England, and was constructed under Sir Frederick's immediate superintendence. Attached to the ch. is a college, wherein boys are educated with a special view to the cultivation of church music. If possible, visit it on a saint's day, when full choral service is performed.

From Tenbury the line keeps near the turnpike-road, and the river, passing rt. *Kyrewood* (V. Wheeler, Esq.), to

7½ m. *Newnham Stat.* On rt. is *Newnham Court* (Mrs. Wheeler), and on l. is the village of Knighton on Teme. The *Talbot Inn* at *Newnham Bridge* enjoys repute as a comfortable hostelrie for anglers. The Teme for several miles is preserved by an Association, of which the terms of membership are reasonable. Trout and grayling are the principal catches.

The rly. now turns to the N. to

10 m. *Neen Sollers Stat*, on the outskirts of Bewdley Forest. The *ch.* has a monument to Humphry Coningsby, the traveller, lord of the manor in the 16th centy. To the rt. 1 m. is *Shakenhurst* (G. Wicksted,

Esq.), an unpretending brick mansion, with a porch.

2 m. to the E. is *Mamble Ch.*, which has 2 mortuary chapels belonging to the Blount and Shaknhurst families, filled with their memorials. Amongst them is a stone effigy of Ralph de Mamble in full suit of chain armour, and a *brass* of John Blount and his wife, 1510. This neighbourhood is noted for the longevity of its inhabitants. Passing l. *Mawley Hall*, the seat of Sir E. Blount, Bart., situated at the head of a picturesque glen, the traveller arrives at

13½ m. *Cleobury Mortimer Stat.* 2½ m. from the town. *Inn:* King's Arms; Population 1708. It is a straggling old fashioned little place, on the banks of the Rea Brook. The *ch.* (formerly attached to a religious house) is of E. E. date, and has nave, aisles, chancel, S. porch, and square tower with a high octagonal wooden spire. A son of Sir Roger de Mortimer and Lady Isabel de Ferrars, which hardly survived its birth, was buried here. Adjoining it is a grammar school founded by Sir E. L. Child. At Cleobury Mortimer was born Robert Longland, the author of the 'Vision of Piers Plowman,' in the 14th centy. Saxton, in his survey, mentions a large park here, originally a royal chase or park, which in early times came to the Mortimers, and again merged in the crown. Here too John Moultrie, the revered vicar of Rugby, the boy-friend of Macaulay, Macworth Praed, and Sidney Walker, the author of 'My Brother's Grave,' 'Sir Launfal,' and 'A Dream of Life,' passed the years of his boyhood.

The rly. now enters the *Bewdley Forest*, once so vast that Worcestershire took its name from it, but now a district of 7000 acres, planted with oak and underwood, which, however, scarcely furnishes the usual charms of forest scenery. A periodical pillage has been adopted from an early period, calling forth the following complaint in the Polyolbion.

"When soon the goodlie Wyre, that wonted was so hie
Her statelie top to reare, ashamed to behold
Her straighte and goodlie woods unto the furnace sold;
And looking on herself, by her decay doth see
The miserie wherein her sisters' forests bee."

The *Forest of Wyre* coalfield stretches from the N. end of the Abberley Hills, and under the Bewdley Forest, until it becomes contracted to a narrow band alongside the Severn, near Bridgnorth, where it dies out. The coal seams are those of the upper series, and as usual in those cases, are of inferior quality. In fact, coal mining in the Forest of Wyre has not in general proved a successful adventure. There are several pits in the parishes of Mamble and Pensax. "In some of the latter the shafts are from 30 to 40 yards deep, passing through white sandstone, and two coals are worked, of which the upper or yard coal is the best—a lower coal of inferior quality is not extracted. The overlying coal sandstone is exhibited in fine quarries at Pensax, and is a good building material, but it thins out towards the Abberley Hills, where the overlying strata are composed chiefly of clunch and slate."—*Murchison.* Notwithstanding that the timber of the Wyre district is far below the size of English forests, it is a pleasant wild out-of-the-way country to ramble in, and will well repay the pedestrian.

The rly. crosses the Severn at *Dowles Brook*, on an iron bridge of one arch, having a span of 200 ft., and joins the Severn Valley Rly. at Northwood. Near the river-bank to the rt. is the little brick *ch.* of Dowles, of plain structure.

19½ m. *Bewdley* (*Inn:* George) is in Worcestershire, but so close to the borders of Shropshire, that it

must be described here. It is a borough town, consisting of two principal streets at right angles, containing very well built houses. In the High Street a "black-and-white" timbered house of three gables bears the date of 1610. It takes its name (Beau Lieu or Bellus Locus) from its pleasant situation upon the declivity of a hill on the rt. bank of the Severn, which is crossed by one of Telford's bridges, erected 1797, and charmingly sheltered by the adjoining forest of Wyre. Camden describes it in a complimentary verse—

"Delicium rerum bellus locus undique floret,
Fronde coronatus Viriaræ tempora Silvæ."

"Fair seated Bewdley, a delightful town
Which Wyre's tall oaks with shady branches crown."

It was included in the Marches of Wales, and was added to the county of Worcester by Henry VIII., though it had previously obtained a charter of incorporation from Edward IV. Its situation on the Severn, and its means of communication with Bristol by that river, enabled the merchants of Bewdley to establish a very extensive trade in combs and sailors' caps, and it was once the emporium for the exportation of Welsh flannels, cotton goods, timber, bark, corn, leather, and wool; whilst it imported groceries for the supply of Lancashire and the Principality. Its trade in these commodities has been abolished by modern arrangements; but the town retains many proofs of its former prosperity in the numerous massive houses built by its wealthy merchants. In the Civil War Bewdley was held for the King, but was surprised by Fox the Tinker, who took Sir T. Lyttleton and other persons of quality prisoners. Charles I. regained possession of it before the fight at Marston Moor, and also after his defeat at Naseby.

The Town Hall, a modern neat building in the High Street, has a commodious market place underneath, with the arms of Lyttleton carved in front. John Tomes, a theological disputant of notoriety in the Civil Wars, and Willis, Bishop of Winchester, son of a carpenter, were natives of Bewdley.

Crossing the Severn Bridge and passing the extremely primitive *ch.* at the top of Load Street, an outlet, called Park Lane, leads to *Ticknell House* (J. Tangye, Esq.), situated on a very picturesque eminence, and built by Henry VII., as a place of retirement for Arthur, Prince of Wales, in the forest of Wyre, and in this house the prince was married by proxy to Catherine of Aragon.

The Court of Marches was once held alternately at Ludlow and Ticknell, and it was on his road between these places that the prince died, A.D. 1502. Ticknell continued in good condition until the Civil Wars, when it was visited by Charles I., and was afterwards demolished by the Parliament. Their Commissioners described the Royal House as having a "a great court, a garden, and several outhouses—the house built within the park, and contains 2 acres in its site." At the Restoration it was granted to Lord Herbert, and afterwards to Sir Francis Winnington, Solicitor-General. At the further end of High Street from the ch. is approached Kates Hill, J. Bury, Esq.; and beyond it, amidst fine timber, Winterdyne House.

Winterdyne House (J. Shaw, Esq.), commanding a delightful view of the Severn, was built 1770, by Sir E. Winnington, Bart. "The healthiness of the situation, the beauty of the prospect, and the commodious arrangements of the mansion unite in making it a very delightful residence."—*Nash.*

Excursions in the neighbourhood of Bewdley, to Ribbesford, 1½ m.;

Habberley Valley, 3 m. (*Handbook for Worcestershire*).

Distances.—Kidderminster, 3½ m.; Stourport, 3 m.; Bridgnorth, 13 m.

ROUTE 3.

FROM LUDLOW TO WOLVERHAMPTON, BY CLEE HILLS AND BRIDGNORTH.

This road leads through a portion of Shropshire scarcely touched by rlys., and but little frequented.

The direct road to Bridgnorth is by Middleton, distance 17½ m.; but a far more interesting rte. is obtained by going across the Clee Hills, and regaining the turnpike at Burwarton or Cleobury North.

There are 2 roads to the Clee Hills from Ludlow:—

1. The upper one (5 m.) is the shorter, passing, 2 m. l., *Henley Hall* (— Wood, Esq.), and leaving the village of Middleton to the l., 3½ m. To the l., 1 m., is the village of *Bitterley*, mentioned in Domesday Book, as having once belonged to Roger de Lacy. There is here part of a Cross of beautiful proportions, of the date of 1500, or thereabouts. Inside the *ch.* is a monument with a singular Latin inscription to a member of the family of Lord Lisburne, and also one to the Lucys of Charlecot, in Warwickshire. There are also a good oak rood-loft and Norm. font with sculptured arcades. The pulpit is of the date of the beginning of the 17th centy. In the ch.-yard is a gravestone, with the arms let in with red cement, which has retained its colour. Near the village is *Bitterley Court* (Rev. J. Walcot), who has an interesting collection of autographs and documents. The road now ascends the shoulder of Hoar Edge, and soon joins

2. The lower road, which is rather longer, and passes, rt., *The Sheet* (Vincent Wheeler, Esq.), and soon afterwards *Caynham Court*, the seat of Sir William M. Curtis, Bart. On the hill above the house is a Roman camp, in good preservation; 2 m. to the E. is Whitton Chapel and *Whitton Park*, an old seat of the Charltons. One of the rooms is still hung with tapestry. The road now ascends Knowbury Hill, and joins the former one. By pursuing this main road, the traveller will reach Cleobury Mortimer in 6 m. (Rte. 2), passing l. the village of *Hopton Wafers* and *Hopton Court* (T. Woodward, Esq.). The *ch.* of Hopton was attached to Brecon Priory. Hopton Court was in the 17th centy. the seat of the Hydes, but it passed by purchase to Mr. Oldham, who built a new house from designs by *Nash*. The grounds were laid out by *Repton*.

The Clee Hills, famous, according to Camden, "for producing the best barley, and not without some veins of iron," form a picturesque and singular range, running rather disjointedly for some 10 m. in a north-easterly direction. They may be described as a long ridge, consisting of Knowbury, Hoar Edge, and Farlow Hill, in front of which, and connected by a small elevated neck, rises the steep escarpment of Titterstone Clee (1780 ft.), a most important feature in South Shropshire scenery. Leland says: "The highest part of Cle Hills is cawlyd Tyderstone. In it is a fayre playne grene and a fountayne in it. Ther is another Hill, 3 miles distant, cawlyd the Brown Cle." At Farlow, the hills die out for about 2 m., but reappear further N. in the two eminences of the Brown Clee.

From any one of them, but more especially the Titterstone Clee, the view is remarkably fine, extending over the Malverns, the Sugar-loaf and the Scyrrid in Monmouthshire, and the Black Mountains in Breconshire, while eastward the whole extent of country is visible to Bridgnorth, and even into Staffordshire. Drayton thus sings of the Teme and the Clees:—

"Where at her going out, those mountains of commande
(The Clees, like loving twins and Stitterstone that stande)
Trans-Severnéd, behold faire England towards the rise,
And on their setting side, how ancient Cambria lies."

Polyolb. viii. 416–20.

The geologist will find very much to interest him, for the Clee Hill coal-field consists of "2 small outlying tracts, remnants of a formation that once spread continuously from South Wales and Gloucestershire. They are perched on the summits of the Titterstone and Brown Clee; and, if lighted up with the combustible materials with which they are stored, would serve as beacon-fires for many a mile around. These coal-fields are rather more than a mile each in diameter, and are capped by a bed of hard *basalt*, to which, owing to its powers of resistance to marine denudation, the hills probably owe their preservation. On these flat-topped hills are planted several small collieries, whose shafts pierce the basalt before entering the coal. The vent from which this igneous rock has been erupted, is situated in the Titterstone Clee; and from this orifice the basalt has apparently been poured forth in the form of liquid submarine lava, at some period after the coal-mines were formed." The basalt is in great request for "metal" for roads, for which it is quarried under the name of Jewstone or Dhustone (black stone). Large crushing engines have been erected for the purpose of breaking it up on the spot. "The thickness of the coal formation is but small, containing only 2 or 3 thin columns, and the strata rest generally on Old Red sandstone, but representatives both of the carboniferous limestone and Millstone grit, are interposed at the eastern side of the Titterstone Clee."—*Hull.* At Farlow and Oreton these beds between the Old Red and the Millstone grit are especially interesting, and have yielded the *Pteric thys macrocephalus*, while the overlying limestones are rich in palatal teeth of Orodus, Pæcilodus, Helodus, &c. The botanist will find on the Clee Hills the minute harebell (*Wahlenbergia hederacea*), *Allosorus crispus* (parsley fern), *Achillæa Ptarmica*, *Viola lutea*, *Scutellaria minor*, *Sedum Telephium*, *Polygonum convolvulus*, *Inula Helenium*, *Saxifraga hypnoides*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Botrychium lunare*, *Osmunda regalis*.

The archæologist may observe the remains of an ancient *encampment* on the summit of Titterstone Clee, and facing the W. is a portion of basaltic rock, called "The Giant's Chair." The vallum surrounding the camp is larger than that of Abdon Burf, but inferior to it in height. It measures from N. to S. 560 yds., and from E. to W. ½ m. The original entrance lies on the S.S.E. The coal from the collieries is conveyed to Ludlow by a rly., used only for minerals.

The main road from Middleton runs up the valley of the Ledwyche Brook, passing l., on high ground, *Downton Hall*, the seat of Sir Charles Boughton, Bart.

4 m. rt., *The Moor;* and to the l., 1 m., is the village of Hopton in the Hole, or *Hopton Cangeford.*

6¼ m. on rt., 1¼ m., is *Wheathill*, the *ch.* of which has a fine semicircular S. doorway with cable moulding; the tympanum is ornamented with diamond facets.

8½ m., *Burwarton village* and *Hall* (Lord Boyne), on the slopes of the Brown Clee Hill. *Burwarton Ch.* is of Norm. date, and has a plain semicircular chancel arch. In the interior is some carved woodwork. The Brown Clee Hill, which overlooks Burwarton, has two summits, each marked by a camp. *Clee Burf*, the most southerly, is surrounded by a vallum on the N. side. *Abdon Burf* (Qy. Buarth, enclosure) is also encircled by a vallum of dewstone, 65 ft. wide at its base. The enclosed area is oval, 1317 ft. from N. to S., and 660 ft. from E. to W. In this enclosure are remains of circles, and a large unhewn stone called the Giant's Shaft. Mr. Hartshorne considers that there are traces of Druidic worship at Abdon Burf. *Nordy Bank* is a Roman station, 1 m. W. of Clee Burf. It is a parellelogram with rounded angles, surrounded by a "fosse" 12 ft. wide, and a very perfect specimen of a Roman fortified position. Mr. Hartshorne argues, from Abdon Burf overlooking Nordy Bank, that the former enclosure was *religious*, not *defensive*, as otherwise the Romans would not have encamped at a disadvantage. A road led from it to Rushbury, now called the Devil's Causeway.

Aston Botterell Ch. (1 m. rt.) contains a canopied altar-tomb to the Botterells.

On rt., 4 m., is *Stoddesdon Ch.*, restored in 1868. It contains some good Norm. work in the lower stage of the tower and semicircular arches of the N. arcade: a S. aisle, called the Wrickton Chantry, was added in the 14th centy. The W. doorway has rude carvings of animals of Norm. or Saxon date. The font is very rich. with an interlaced border surmounting the rest of its ornaments. Stoddesdon Manor originally belonged to the Norman family of De Gamages, and afterwards was held by the Cornewalls and Sir Walter Manny. He raised the siege of Hennebonne, which had been defended to the last gasp by the Countess of Montfort. Swinfield, Bp. of Hereford, visited Stoddesdon in 1290, and found his lodging very indifferent, for he had to send to market all the way to Kidderminster, and to fetch his horse-shoes and nails from Hereford. The tiles in the chancel are copied from old patterns dug up from portions of the former foundations. Upwards of 20 varieties were discovered altogether.

9½ m., *Cleobury North* and *Hall* (H. T. Mytton, Esq.).

A *ch.* existed at Cleobury in the reign of Henry I., and was attached to Brecon Priory. The font is octagonal, with tooth-moulding round the base.

Cloeia in Saxon = "Clayey," whence Clee Hill, Cloeia Beorg, or Clayey Town = Cleobury, now called Cleobury North, in contradistinction to Cleobury Mortimer.

10½ m. is the village of *Neenton* on the Rea Brook.

The country now becomes very hilly all the way to

Bridgnorth, 17½ m. (Rte. 4), *Hotel:* Crown; good beds, billet, and posting.

From hence the road crosses the Severn, and mounts the opposite hill, descending again at Roughton, overlooking the river Worf and the grounds of *Davenport House* (W. S. Davenport, Esq.), a fine brick mansion placed in the centre of delightful scenery, caused by the windings of the Worf in its narrow and deep channel. At the bottom of the valley is *Worfield*, with its pretty *ch.* and spire. In the interior are a good screen, a canopied marble altar-tomb with recumbent figures of Sir George Bromley and his lady, a *brass* to Sir E. Bromley, and other monuments to the Davenport family. The late Mr. Davenport was a well-known sportsman, and celebrated for his greyhounds.

Among the former rectors of Worfield were William de Kilkenny, Bp. of Ely and Lord Chancellor 1255, and Henry de Wengham, Bp. of London and Lord Chancellor 1260. The latter was also Dean of St. Martin's, Dean of Tettenhall, Rector of Alveley, Kirkham, and Preston — a tolerable example of pluralism.

[Nearly 4 m. to the N. is *Badger Hall* (E. Cheney, Esq.), which, if it did not take its name from its former possessors, the De Beggesoveres, afterwards the Bagsores, may have been A.-S. for "the bank of the brook" or "of the beeches." In the last centy. Badger belonged to Isaac Hawkins Browne (died 1776), a lawyer and poet of considerable ability, author of 'The Pipe of Tobacco' and a Latin poem on the 'Immortality of the Soul.' The *ch.*, which is of the date of the 12th centy., contains some exquisite monuments to members of the Browne and Cheney families, by *Flaxman*, *Chantrey*, and *Gibson*. The scenery of the Badger dingle is very charming, and famous throughout Shropshire,—a narrow rocky glen of nearly 1 m. running down to join the valley of the Worf. It is a favourite spot for excursionists, and admission is granted on certain days.

Cotsbrook, near Badger, is a seat of Mr. Whitmore, the former owner of Apley.]

4½ m. to the S., on a high ridge known as Gravenor Common, is *Chicknell* (Cavendish Taylor, Esq.), and at 5½ m. a little to the N., the archæologist will find an earthwork known as the *Walls*.

At 7 m., Shipley Common, the road enters Staffordshire.

14 m. Wolverhampton. (*Hotel:* Swan.)—*Handbook for Staffordshire.*

ROUTE 4.

FROM BEWDLEY TO SHREWSBURY, BY BRIDGNORTH AND IRONBRIDGE.

This route is conveniently performed by the Severn Valley Rly. of the Great Western Company, which leaves the main line between Worcester and Wolverhampton, at HARTLEBURY JUNC., entering Shropshire a few miles beyond Bewdley (Rte. 2). For the whole way, it is carried close to the Severn, and for picturesque and varied river scenery is excelled by few lines in the kingdom.

Quitting the *Bewdley Stat.* at Wribbenhall, it follows the l. bank of the river, and sends off the Tenbury and Wooferton branch at Dowles on l. 2 m. to rt., in the wooded high ground, is *Habberley valley*, the happy hunting-ground of botanists, who have obtained within a radius of half-a-mile nearly 500 species of plants, while *Trimpley*, a little to the N., has yielded from its tilestones *Cephalaspis Murchisoni*. The line now crosses the river to

4 m. *Arley Stat.* The village is on the l. bank, in a little outlying corner of Staffordshire. The view is charming—a beautiful bend of the river, as it runs through a deep vale—the village close to the water, and above it the beautiful grounds and castle of *Arley* (Robt. Woodward, Esq.), with the quaint *ch.* adjoining it.

About 5 m., to the W. of Arley, in an elevated and wild part of the

Forest of Wyre, is *Kinlet Hall*, once, according to Camden, "a seat of the Blunts, a name very famous in these parts, denoting their golden locks. This is a very ancient and honourable family, and hath spread its branches far." Kinlet is now the seat of W. L. Childe, Esq., and is remarkable for the fine oak timber in the park. The *ch.* is near the house in the grounds. It consists of nave, chancel, S. porch, and transept, on the outside wall of which are some blocked arches,—and contains altar-tombs to the Blount and Childe families, some good stained glass, and a carved oak communion-table. The rector of Kinlet was also Abbot of Wigmore. In Wigmore ch. documents is an extract, showing that "he supplied corn and fuel for baking bread to Bishop Swinfield's suite, when he visited Kinlet in 1290, besides forage and litter for 36 horses of his train. Their purveyor paid 1*d.* to the guide, and 4*d.* for crossing and recrossing the Severn at the ferry." It was at Kinlet that this Bishop wrote his famous letter to Pope Nicholas IV., alleging the miracles which had been performed at the tomb of his predecessor Cantilupe, and soliciting his canonization. *Earnwood*, a manor in the parish of Kinlet, was originally a forest residence (with a park attached) of the Mortimers. On Feb 13, 1225, King Henry III. commands Hugh de Neville to let Hugh de Mortimer have 10 fallow deer from the royal forest of Feckenham, which the King has given him towards stocking his park at Earnwood. The geologist will find here an instructive outbreak of Plutonic rock, consisting of hornblende greenstone, containing crystals of augite. To the N. of Kinlet is *Billingsley*, where, in 1636, was born Dr. Hyde, a celebrated Oriental scholar, and keeper of the Bodleian Library.

The rly. now ascends a steep incline to

6¼ m., *Highley Stat.*, from whence there is a charming retrospective view of the river. *Highley Church* has an ancient chancel window, and an old and elaborately carved freestone cross in the churchyard. To rt., on high ground, is *Alveley Church*, which has some fine pillars and capitals.

8½ m. *Hampton Load Stat.* On the opposite bank is a small wharf for the unloading of coals and lime.

2 m. l. is *Chelmarsh*, the *ch.* of which belonged to Wigmore Abbey in 1179. The male line of the Mortimers of Chelmarsh expired with Hugh de Mortimer at the battle of Shrewsbury in 1403. It contains a good piscina. Higher up, on the l. bank, are the village of Quatt, where is the S.E. Shropshire District School, capable of accommodating 220 pauper children, and *Dudmaston Hall* (Fras. Alexr. Woolrych Whitmore, Esq.).

11 m. *Eardington Stat.*, 2 m. S.W. of which is *Woodlands* (T. W. Browne, Esq.). Emerging from some heavy cuttings, the traveller gains a lovely view of

13 m. *Bridgnorth* (*Hotel:* Crown, good, moderate, clean, and with good posting arrangements), than which few towns are more picturesquely placed. Originally called Brug, it seems to have acquired the suffix of North, in distinction from an ancient bridge lower down Severn at Quatford. (Cf. Sutton (or South Town), near Hereford.) It is divided by the Severn, which here flows through a valley bounded by precipitous rocks covered with wood, into 2 portions—the Upper and Lower towns. The former is perched on the top of a cliff (180 ft. above the river), the descent to which is by a singular passage hewn out of the rock, at least 20 ft. Indeed, most of the cellars of the houses are excavated in the same way. Overlooking the town are the scanty remains of the *Castle*, around which a terrace

walk has been formed, remarkable for the extent and beauty of the landscape. The castle was built in 1098 by Robert de Belesme, son of Roger de Montgomery. He was the third and last Norman Earl of Shrewsbury, and one of the most turbulent of the Norman barons. This earldom he had obtained from William Rufus, but on his supporting Robert Duke of Normandy, he was outlawed, and the castle underwent a siege of 3 weeks' duration, at the end of which it was taken by Henry I. (1102). The chief relic of Robert's Castle is a leaning tower, recalling those at Pisa and Caerphilly. It would appear, however, that the existing ruins on the Castle Hill have nothing to do with the castle originally built by Ethelfleda, daughter to Alfred the Great, to repress the Danes; the site of which Mr. Eyton has happily divined at Pampudding Hill, in the parish of Oldbury (Old burg or beorg), about 200 yards westward of the Castle walk. In the Pipe Roll is a charge of 1*d.* a day for the living of the porter of Brug (as Bridgnorth was then called) in the time of Henry II., who visited it when in a state of siege, with Thomas à Beckett in his train, as also did John and Henry III. subsequently. King John gave the town a charter, and it has returned a member to Parliament ever since Edward I.'s reign.

It is recorded that Henry II. had a narrow escape of his life while besieging the castle, which was being held against him by Mortimer. An arrow was discharged at him by an archer from the wall, when Hubert de St. Clare, stepping forward, received it in his own breast. It was in this loyal borough, too, that the unfortunate Edward II. found refuge, until discovered and dragged a prisoner to Kenilworth and Berkeley castles. In the Civil War it received several visits from Charles I., and further stood a long siege of a month, when it was finally demolished. According to the Blakeway Papers in the British Museum, Oliver Cromwell narrowly escaped being shot by a brace of musket bullets on July 15, 1645, while riding within range of Bridgnorth. Bridgnorth possesses 2 chs. *St. Mary's*, rebuilt in 1796, is a Grecian building, with a tower and cupola, and has a fine altar-piece. This ch. is said to have been removed hither from Quatford. *St. Leonard's* was formerly collegiate, and is said to have once possessed 7 chapels. It was situated within the castle wall, and suffered greatly by fire, as did most of the town and its public buildings during the siege in the Civil War. It now consists of a nave, chancel, and aisle, and has been restored, all but one arch and the tower and belfry. During the restoration a fine oak roof was discovered under the plaster. The chancel E. window was originally placed there in 1846, in memory of Thomas Whitmore, Esq., but was restored and filled with choice glass, in 1876, by a subscription of the old friends and pupils of Dr. Rowley, for so many years head-master of Bridgnorth School. A valuable divinity library, bequeathed by Dean Stackhouse, is fitly preserved in a quasi-chapter-house adjoining the organ-chamber. A modern window on the S. side has been placed "by a priest of the English Church, as a poor offering of thankfulness to Almighty God for many means of grace and good instruction vouchsafed to him in this church and at the adjoining grammar-school." Ten almshouses for poor widows, founded by Francis Palmer, on the S. side of St. Leonard's ch.-yd., commemorate the death within its precincts, at the siege of Bridgnorth, of his uncle, Col. Francis Billingsley, late of Abbots Astley, a staunch Royalist. The present town-hall, built in the place of that destroyed in the Civil War, bears the date of

1652, and is a half-timbered building on the original stone arches. There are some old "black and white" houses in the town, with other ancient and interesting buildings, such as the parsonage, the grammar-school, and the Swan Inn. Bishop Percy, of Dromore, the antiquary and author of 'Reliques of Ancient Poetry,' was born in 1728 in another of these houses, which bears the date of 1580. His father was a grocer in the town, and the house, at the bottom of the Cartway and adjoining Underhill Street, but best reached from the bridge, has been restored by its owner, Mr. Austin, of Birmingham. The Hospital of the Holy Trinity, or St. John's, stood in the Lower Town, so as to command all the roads eastward. St. James s Leper House stood outside the town on the Quatford road

The Lower town, which is connected with the Upper by a handsome bridge of 7 arches, does not possess much of interest. From this bridge, indeed, the town has obtained its name; for it superseded another and much more ancient one, 1 m. to the S., which crossed the river most probably at *Quatford*. With the exception of malting, Bridgnorth has not much trade, though, as the centre of a large agricultural district, it is a pleasant halting-place. The Grammar School, an Elizabethan building, founded by the Corporation in 1503, has a good standing amongst educational establishments. On the Worfield road is a red sandstone cave, known as the *Hermitage*, the hermit having been supposed to be a brother of King Athelstan. Documentary evidence proves that it bore a Saxon name, meaning Ethelward's Rock, in the time of Edward III. It has rudely sculptured piscinæ, arches formed out of the sandstone, and some steps leading to a pulpit; but the *hermitage* is now devoted to such base uses as swine-feeding. Some remains of a House of Grey Friars, established here in the middle of Henry III.'s reign, are to be seen by the Severn side, on a site occupied by Southwell's carpet manufactory—viz., the Refectory, with its panelled ceiling and stone fire-place.

Distances.—Bewdley, 13 m.; Wolverhampton, 14; Shrewsbury, 21; Coalbrookdale, 9; Ludlow, 17½; Davenport, 3½; Badger, 7½; Quatford, 1; Apley, 4½ m.; Shifnal, 10 m.

[An excursion of 8½ m. can be taken from Bridgnorth, through the district formerly occupied by the Forest of Morf, crossing the bridge, ascending the hill, and leaving the Quatford road on rt.

1 m. is *Quatford*, the ancient Cwthbriege of the Saxon Chronicle. A fortress was built here in 913 by Æthelfleda, and subsequently a collegiate ch. by Adelisa, wife of Earl Roger de Montgomery, as a romantic memorial of her first meeting with her husband on this spot. In 1085 followed the castle and bridge recorded in Domesday Book as the New Berg of Earl Roger. Some indications of the site of a keep occur on the river side of a precipitous rock overhanging the Severn, with a fosse in its rear, about ¼ m. below the village. The whole of the district was then completely covered with wood, Quatford being the capital of the Forest of Morf until the foundation of Bridgnorth by Earl Robert de Belesme, "who," says Ordericus, 'removed the people and the houses hither." The *ch.* is of the date of the 14th centy., except a small window on the N. side of the chancel, which is earlier. The chancel arch is late Norm. Mr. Petit thinks that this ch. preserves its original ground-plan, as in the walls of the nave and chancel is a kind of calcareous tufa, while the tower is built of red sandstone. In the interior are some incised slabs and a font, the panelling of which is of the 14th centy.

Morf Forest was 8 m. in length, by 6 wide, and existed for some two centuries after the Conquest. The Danes paid it a visit. when they were deprived of their fleet on the Thames by King Alfred, and lay entrenched within its recesses for more than a year.

3 m. a road on l. branches off to *Claverley*, 2½ m., passing l. *Chicknell* (Cavendish Taylor, Esq.). *Claverley Ch.*, Norman transition date, was formerly adorned with a fine series of armorial bearings. The *font* is Norman, having arcades, the piers of which are of different mouldings. The visitor should notice the grotesque heads, forming the capital of one of the arches. Claverley, with Worfield, Nordley, and Alveley, and with Morfield Forest, were, under Edward the Confessor, a fruitful estate, bounded to the W. by the Severn. Given by the Conqueror to the first Norman Earl of Shrewsbury, he probably built the ch., and gave its tithes to the collegiate ch. at Quatford. When, however, Henry I. expelled the younger De Belesme, it again became Crown property.

5 m. on l., 1½ m., close to the Staffordshire border, is *Gatacre Park*, the seat of E. F. Acton, Esq., whose family has been settled here since Charles I. The house is modern, but the old building was celebrated for its curious rooms and landing-places. All the offices were some distance off, but were connected by underground passages opening into the country at a considerable distance. It is supposed that Charles II. was concealed here on his flight to Boscobel. The road now crosses the border to

8½ m. Enville Park, the seat of the Earl of Stamford and Warrington (*Handbook for Staffordshire*).]

3 m. on the Wenlock road is the village of *Morville*, which possessed a ch. in the days of Edward the Confessor. This was succeeded by one built by the monks of Salop in 1118. It then became a cell, and remained subject to Shrewsbury Abbey till the Reformation. The architecture is of the 12th centy. The tower has very thick walls and flat buttresses. The nave and aisles are separated by semicircular arches with mouldings of transition date. There are Norm. details in the N. chancel door—notwithstanding the date of 1683 over it,—in the string-courses, and the curious and interesting font. *Aldenham Hall*, adjoining the village, is approached by a fine avenue, and is the seat of Lord Acton. *Upton Cressett Ch.*, a little to the S., has a nave, chancel, and broach-spire of the 12th cent. The S. aisle is of later date. The E. window is remarkably small. The arches separating the nave and aisle have good chevron mouldings, and there is a splendid doorway with three orders of Norm. moulding. The font is shaped like a jar and ornamented with round-headed arches. There is a *brass* to the memory of William Cressett, his wife, 2 sons, and 3 daughters, 1640.

Aston Eyre Ch., 1 m W. of Morville, has a curious carving as the tympanum of the doorway, of a figure on horseback, another sitting down, and a third walking on the other side. It is believed to represent the Good Samaritan, and is a monument of the devotion of Robert Fitz-Aer, the founder, circ. 1138. *Acton Round Ch.* (restored) has nave, transepts, chancel, and tower, with tombs of the Acton family. The *Hall*, of the date of Queen Ann, is now a farmhouse.

From Bridgnorth Stat. the rly. tunnels under a portion of the town, and resumes its course by the river-side, passing l. *Stanley Hall*, the seat of Sir Henry Tyrwhitt, Bart. Near it is *Astley Abbott Ch.*, dedicated to St. Calixtus. Part of it is of Norm. date,

but the chancel was rebuilt in 1633, and the nave and steeple in 1857.

17 m. *Linley Stat.* *Apley Park*, on the opposite side of the river, the seat of W. Orme Forster, Esq., is one of the most beautiful places in the county, or, for the matter of that, in the kingdom. It is a fine mansion built of Grinshill stone, with a lofty square tower, overlooking the Severn, which here makes a graceful bend. On the S.E. front is a groined archway, under which is the principal entrance. But the chief beauty of Apley is the wooded park of 245 acres and the *Terrace*, an elevated drive of more than a mile in length, and of sufficient breadth to allow 6 carriages abreast. The view from it is exceedingly fine, embracing a panorama of 60 miles' circumference.

Apley formerly belonged to the Lucys of Charlcote (Shakespeare's prosecutor), from whom it was purchased in the reign of Elizabeth by an ancestor of Mr. Whitmore, the late owner.

The approach to Apley from Bridgnorth is by the Shiffnal Road on the opposite side of the river, which road runs past the churches of Stockton (from *Stoc*, A.-S., and *Tun* = town), and Sutton Maddock to the l., and, except as being well-wooded, is somewhat uninteresting.

Linley Ch. (1 m. to l.) is of the date of the 12th centy. The S. doorway is semicircular, and the tympanum is occupied by a curious herring-bone pattern. There is some beautiful carving on the upper portion of the font, which may be compared with those of Morville and Stottesden.

2½ m. to the W. is *Willey Park*, the seat of Lord Forester, also built of Grinshill stone, from designs by *Wyatt*. The front of the house is nearly 303 ft. long, and has a fine Corinthian portico in the centre. The park is charmingly undulating and wooded, and is ornamented by a series of small lakes. This park is mentioned by Leland as being on the bounds of the Royal Hay or Forest of Shirlot. From hence it is only 3 m. to Much Wenlock. (Rte. 6).

The valley of the Severn now becomes narrower and more contracted, and signs of manufacturing industry begin to appear at

19½ m. *Coalport Stat.*, where the Shropshire iron district may be said to commence. The London and North-Western Rly. has a station here on the other side of the river, from whence their line runs to *Madeley* and Wellington (Rte. 7). The former place, which contains ironworks, was the residence of the Rev. W. Fletcher, whose life was written by John Wesley. Although the natural beauty of the river valley is very great between Coalport and

21 m. *Ironbridge Stat.*, it is terribly spoilt by the forges and foundries, the banks of slag and refuse that run down to the water's edge. Tiers of dirty cottages rise on the hill-side, which is very steep; advantage being taken of each little dingle to carry a turnpike road or a railroad through it. Very near the station the Severn is crossed by an *iron bridge* of one arch, of 120 ft. span, the history of which is exceedingly interesting, as being the first iron bridge on record. It is due to the energy of Abraham Darby, of the Coalbrookdale Works, in 1779, who, perceiving the want of communication between the brick, pottery, and iron works of Madeley and *Broseley*, determined to bridge the Severn over at this point, where the banks are steep and slippery. "The construction of a bridge of iron was an entirely new idea. An attempt, indeed, had been made at Lyons to construct such a bridge more than 20 years before; but it had entirely failed, and a bridge of timber had been erected instead. It is not known

whether the Coalbrookdale masters had heard of that attempt; but, even if they had, it would have been of no practical use to them. Mr. Pritchard, an architect of Shrewsbury, was first employed to prepare a design of the intended structure, which is still preserved. Although he proposed to introduce cast iron in the arch of the bridge, it was only as a sort of key, occupying but a few feet at the crown of the arch. This sparing use of cast iron indicates the timidity of the architect in dealing with the new material; his plan exhibiting a desire to effect a compromise between the tried and the untried in bridge construction. But the use of iron to so limited an extent, and in such a part of the structure, was of more than questionable utility; and if Mr. Pritchard's plan had been adopted, the problem of the iron bridge would still have remained unsolved. The plan, however, after having been duly considered, was eventually set aside, and another, with the *entire* arch of cast iron, was prepared, under the superintendence of Abraham Darby, by Mr. Thomas Gregory, his foreman of pattern-makers."—*Smiles.* The bridge excited so much curiosity in the country that in 1788 the Society of Arts gave Mr. Darby their gold medal; and Robert Stephenson says of it, "If we consider that the manipulation of cast iron was then in its infancy, a bridge of such dimensions was doubtless a bold as well as an original undertaking, and the efficiency of the details is worthy of the boldness of the conception."

The skill of the builders is shown by the fact, that when a thorough examination of the bridge was made in 1862, after nearly 80 years' daily wear and tear, it was found that the abutments had not moved, nor were the ribs out of their proper right line. There had been merely a strain on the land-arches and the road-plates, which the main arch had effectually resisted. The town of Ironbridge (*Inns:* Tontine, and Station, ordinary) contains an uninteresting *ch.*, schools, and a drinking fountain.

Nearly opposite the iron bridge, but a little higher up the river, is the ravine of *Coalbrook Dale*, in which are situated the celebrated iron-works of that name. (*Inn:* Coalbrook Dale.) The valley is singularly beautiful; and, although to a certain extent disfigured by forges and furnaces, it is free from the dirty and squalid appearance of Ironbridge. This is due to the care of the masters and the neatness and architectural attention paid to the residences, offices, and schools.

Coalbrook Dale, although now excelled in size by hundreds of establishments, is historically interesting as the cradle of the iron-trade, and the first place where iron was regularly smelted by means of coke and coal. Previous to that time, viz., the 18th centy., iron-masters had always used wood for that purpose, and particularly in Sussex, the then head-quarters of the trade. But such havoc was played with the timber, that grave alarm was expressed lest England should become disforested, and severe enactments were passed in 1581 against the use of wood in iron-smelting. This had the effect of paralysing the trade for many years, and of completely putting a stop to it in Sussex: and it was not until the time of Dud Dudley, son of the Earl of Dudley, that attention was turned to the application of coke or "pit-coal" for smelting instead of charcoal (1620). Efforts, more or less successful, were made by him and others to carry on the manufacture in this way; but it was reserved for the Darbys, in 1700, to apply it on a large and systematic scale. Abraham Darby, the first of the iron-masters, was the son of a farmer near Dudley, who established a brass and iron foundry near Bristol,

where he succeeded in obtaining from Holland the method of making cast-iron pots, then a profound secret. But his partners being unwilling to embark more capital in the trade, he removed to Coalbrook Dale in 1709, and there first commenced a furnace supplied by wood. Here he obtained a great country reputation for the excellence of his castings of pots, kettles, and other hollow ware. The smelting by charcoal continued till about 1747, when the timber having become very scarce, pit-coal appears to have been introduced by Mr. Ford, the then manager, who had married Darby's daughter. Abraham Darby died in 1763, and was succeeded by Richard Reynolds, who had married another daughter, and in whose time the works were greatly extended, coal-mining becoming an important part of the concern. In his time, too, the reverberatory furnace for refining the iron was invented by two of the foremen, named *Cranage*, and adopted by him. Their ingenuity, however, was soon improved upon by a later process for puddling, carried out by Henry Cort. A still greater step was taken at Coalbrook Dale by Mr. Reynolds, in the use of iron instead of wooden rails for their tramroad. In 1784, when the Government sought to impose a tax upon pit-coal, the works at Coalbrook Dale were the largest in the kingdom, and the proprietors successfully protested against such an impolitic step. In 1816, Richard Reynolds died, after a long and useful life, in which he had not only secured the fortunes of his family, but done a vast deal of good to all around him, and to the country at large; and since that period the Coalbrook Dale Works, which, with certain changes of partners, have always been in the Darby family, have maintained a very high place in the ranks of the iron-trade. Although many others in Wales and Staffordshire exceed them in extent, they yield to none for the excellence of their castings, and the visitor will recall those exquisite worked-iron gates which were in the Great Exhibition of 1851. For further particulars of the Darby family, the reader is referred to Mr. Smiles' excellent account in his 'Industrial Biographies.' The works consisted, in 1866, of 5 furnaces at Dawley, Lawley, and Lightmoor, with 35 puddling furnaces at Horsehay. The town is neatly laid out, and bears evident tokens of that supervision which masters should give to those places connected with them, but which is so often wanting. The *ch.*, of Dec. style, was built in 1854 in a very pretty situation, and contains a stained glass window of the Last Supper, brought from Flanders. On the opposite eminence of Limekiln or *Lincoln Hill*, there are pleasant walks, laid out by Richard Reynolds during his lifetime for the enjoyment of those employed in the works, and known as "The Workmen's Walks." The interior of the hill is hollowed out into vast caverns, caused by the extraction of the limestone of Wenlock (Upper Silurian) date. They are occasionally lighted up, when fine effects are produced. The Great Western Rly. has a *station* at Coalbrook Dale, from which the traveller can join the Severn Valley Rly. at BUILDWAS JUNC. (see *post*), or make his way to Wellington, passing *Lawley Bank*, *Horsehay*, and *Ketley* stations. As soon as the line emerges from the wooded dingles of Coalbrook Dale it passes through an uninteresting country, as far as regards scenery, with the exception that the Wrekin and its outlines are conspicuous on the l. The greater part of the district between Coalbrook Dale and Wellington is occupied by furnaces, forges, collieries, and brickyards, brilliant enough at night-time, but black, dirty, and dusty in the day. An additional feature of dreariness is caused by the dismantled

colliery-stacks and engine-houses, showing that the mineral treasures underneath have been exhausted. In fact, so much is this the case that the colliers have gradually left the west of the coal-field and migrated to the eastern outcrop. The Coalbrook Dale *coalfield* has a triangular form, with its base in the valley of the Severn and its northern apex at Newport. Along its western side it is bounded partly by a great fault, which brings in the New Red sandstone, and partly by the Silurian rocks of the Wrekin, which rises with its smooth and arched back to a height of 1320 ft. above the sea, and half that amount above the general level of the country around. Along its eastern side the coal-field is bounded by Permian strata, under which the carboniferous beds appear to pass, but diminished both in thickness and productiveness of coal. The general dip of the strata is eastward; and in making a traverse to the foot of the Wrekin we cross in succession the base of the coal-measures, the millstone-grit, carboniferous limestone, a bed of basalt, and at length reach the Silurian rocks which form the general foundation of the carboniferous formations in this district." —*Hull.*

There are about 6 seams of workable coal, giving a thickness of 27 ft. altogether; but the field is much broken by faults, the principal of which, the Lightmoor fault, runs from N. to S., and has a throw of 100 yards. The fossil collector will have great success here in coal-measure fossils, and particularly in fish remains and shells (*Introduction*, p. viii.); but for particulars he should consult Mr. Prestwich's exhaustive memoir in 'Geol. Transactions,' 2nd Series, vol. v. Climbing the steep bank on the l. of Ironbridge, the road leads

1½ m. to *Broseley* (*Inn:* Lion), an unattractive town, principally dependent on its potteries and brick-yards. Tobacco-pipes are also largely made. The town, though ancient and mentioned in old documents as Burwardesley, contains very little of interest, except the *ch.* which is of Perp. date, and was restored in 1845. It is subject to the mother ch. of Wenlock. There is an E. Dec. building of Grinshill stone, erected as a memorial to Mr. Pritchard, a native of Broseley, and once High Sheriff of Salop. "A spring of petroleum was discovered here in 1711. The burning well, as it was called, was shown as a curiosity for several years, when the supply of petroleum failed. The spring broke out again in 1747, and yielded about 3 or 4 barrels a day; but in 1752 the spring was cut into in searching for coals, and the quantity yielded since has been but small."

1 m. W. of Broseley is *Benthall*, where are the celebrated encaustic tile-works of Messrs. Maw, who have a large establishment, employing a number of hands; and adjoining it is *Benthall Hall* (G. Maw, Esq.), an Elizabethan building of the date 1535, and built by William Benthall on the site of an earlier mansion. *Benthall Ch.* contains monuments to the families of Browne and Benthall. The neighbourhood is particularly interesting to the geologist. The lowland to the W. of Coalbrook Dale, looking towards Buildwas, is Upper Silurian (Wenlock Shale); and the lofty ridge including Benthall Edge and Lincoln Hill is Wenlock limestone, with millstone-grit reposing on it. On Benthall Edge the fossil collector will find beautiful specimens of *Favosites aspera*, *F. Gothlandica*, *F. multipora*, *Halysites catenulatus*, &c. *Tyke's Nest*, the highest point of Wenlock Edge, is 417 feet above the Severn valley. The *Birches*,

between Coalbrook Dale and Buildwas, was in 1773 the scene of an extraordinary convulsion, which altered the whole aspect of the country and turned the bed of the Severn.

Following the river-bank, the rly. receives the Coalbrook Dale and Wellington Branch, which crosses the valley, joining it, together with the Craven Arms and Wenlock Line (Rte. 6) at

23 m. BUILDWAS JUNC. (*Inn:* Bridge). Close to the rly., and ½ m. beyond the station, are the picturesque ruins of *Buildwas Abbey* (from *beild*, a "shelter," and *was*, "an alluvial flat;" cf. Sugwas and Moccas, and Rotherwas, Herefordshire), once one of the finest churches in the West of England, founded for monks of the Cistercian Order in 1135, by Roger de Clinton, Bishop of Chester, and Crusader, though Leland attributes it to Matilda de Bohun, wife of Sir Robert Burnell. It is probable that an earlier building existed here, for a tradition narrates that "there was one of the ancient Bishops of Lichfield that was in Offa, King of Merce's tyme, that lived an Hermite life at Buldewas, after such tyme as the pall of the Archbishop of Lichfield was taken from Lichfield and restored again to Canterbury." It was a cruciform building, with a massive tower rising from the intersection, and the existing remains comprise the greater part of the walls and the chapter-house. "The chancel has been altered in the 13th centy., but not rebuilt; the nave has not been altered, but its two sides are not quite of the same date. It is evident that, as usual, the choir was built first, and the nave by degrees afterwards; the latter has Pointed arches, but the character of the work is not late, probably about 1150. The arches are merely recessed and not moulded, and the capitals are scolloped only. The clerestory windows are round-headed."—*Rickman.* The ch. is 163 ft. long by 26 ft. 8 in. broad; the nave, 70 ft. long, including 5 bays; the choir, with 2 bays and crossing, 62 ft.; the square-ended presbytery, 34 ft. by 26 ft.; and the transept, with 2 chapels in each wing, 84 ft. The chancel is lighted by a three-light Norm. window, and contains on the S. side three E. Eng. sedilia, divided by slender pillars, and the capitals and arches having the violet ornament. The *Chapter-house* is in good preservation, and is an oblong in shape, vaulted in 9 compartments, and supported by 4 slender columns; those N.E. and S.W. octagonal, those placed diagonally to them circular. It contains several 13th-cent. stone coffins, with beautiful crosses. The chapter-house, over which was the dormitory, formed the eastern boundary of the cloisters, which stood on the N. of the ch. Opposite the chapter-house door was a beautiful gateway, which fell down in 1828. The abbot's house (recently restored) contains the ambulatory, the chapel, and a large hall of the 13th centy., with some interesting doorways and carved stones. There is also a curious series of underground passages, said, by a customary but most improbable tradition, to communicate with Wenlock. The ceiling of the hall is of oak and Spanish chestnut. It is entered by a good Norm. doorway, and lighted by beautifully moulded Norm. windows, one being on either side the door. The renovated "Buildwas Abbey" is the seat of Mrs. Moseley, and necessarily renders many ancient features of the Abbot's Lodge and other details undistinguishable. The establishment at Buildwas was very wealthy, and possessed no less than nine granges in different parts of Shropshire, two in Staffordshire, and one in Derbyshire, besides the parsonages of

Leighton, Buildwas, and Hatton. The abbey also held jurisdiction over the Savigniac House of St. Mary's, Dublin, over the Abbey of Basingwerk, in Flintshire, that of Dunbrody, in county Wexford, which was so waste and bare, that they transferred the seigneury; and the Montgomeryshire abbey of Strata Marcella. In Henry II.'s reign, the abbey was celebrated for possessing a cope worked by the hands of Fair Rosamond, which was doubtless an object of much curiosity, and, probably, no little gain; but in 1406, Hugh Burnell was fain to give the advowson of Rushbury to the convent, to compensate the losses which the burning of the abbey by the Welsh had caused. This was chiefly confined to the roof. After passing Buildwas, the line still keeps close to the Severn, which now, however, winds through a level well-cultivated district. The hills have fallen back to a considerable distance, the Wrekin being the most conspicuous object some 4 m. to the rt. On l., amidst wooded hills, is *Buildwas Park* (W. Moseley, Esq.), and on rt., across the the river, Leighton village and *Hall* (R. Gardner, Esq.).

Leighton Ch. contains the recumbent effigy of a knight in mail armour, supposed to be Sir Titus de Leighton, 1315, and to have been brought from Buildwas at the Dissolution. "Sir Richard, who was an ancestor of Sir Baldwin Leighton of Loton, reserved to himself in a certain deed of feoffment a power to make a park in his manor of Leighton."—*Shirley.*

26 m. *Cressage Stat.* The river is here crossed by a timber bridge. Cressage obtained its name from a famous old oak (Cnyrtep ár—Christ's oak), under which, traditionally, Christian missionaries preached Christ to the pagan Saxons. This tree, said to have been in the centre of the village, has long disappeared with the village-cross, which succeeded it; but there are still the remains of another large tree, called the Lady Oak, within view of the rly. on the l., which has been propped and clamped with iron, and with the scant foliage of which that of a young tree, planted by the villagers, mingles.

28½ m. *Cound Stat.* On l. is *Cound Hall* (Rev. H. Thoresby-Pelham), and on rt., nearly 3 m., is Wroxeter, the ancient Roman British city of Uriconium (Rte. 8). *Cound Ch.* contains an E. Norm. font with carvings round the upper portion. It consists of a fine old tower, nave, chancel, and side aisles, N. and S., divided by pointed arches resting on columns, having plain lined capitals. On the S. side is a piscina.

30 m. *Berrington Stat.* and Hall (Hon. and Rev. P. Hill); 1¼ m. on rt. the Severn is crossed at Atcham Bridge. *Berrington Ch.* contains the mutilated and unidentified effigy of a knight in wood, and a Saxon font with faces as large as life carved on it. It was recorded that, in 1274, "the ch. was broken open and the clothes of Richard de Bathe stolen by Alice de Hanmon. The culprit was lodged in Shrewsbury gaol, but escaped without trial, by giving a cow to William de Munslow, the sheriff's officer." At 33½ m. a junction is made with the Ludlow and Hereford line, and at 34 m. the traveller enters the joint Stat. of Shrewsbury.

ROUTE 5.

FROM KNIGHTON TO SHREWSBURY, BY CLUN, BISHOP'S CASTLE AND MINSTERLEY.

Knighton (*Inn:* Norton Arms, fair), anciently called Tref-y-Clawdd, or the Town on the Dyke, is pleasantly situated on rising ground overlooking the rt. bank of the Teme, which here divides the counties of Radnor and Salop. The chief object of interest in the town, which is clean and well built, is an *old mansion*, once occupied by the Brydges family, to which "on the side next the street was attached an open terrace walk, which was entered from the second story. To this balcony the family often resorted for the purpose of inhaling the refreshing breeze, enjoying the distant prospect, and contemplating the busy and careful faces of those who resorted to the fairs and markets, without running the risk of compromising their personal dignity by a nearer and more familiar association."—*Williams.* There is another *old house* at the E. of the town which formerly belonged to the Crowthers, a family of local importance, who furnished the county with sheriffs in the 17th centy. The building was in the form of an H, of Jacobean architecture, and was approached by a very fine porch, now taken down. "Adjoining this house stood the house in which the Republican marauders received from the hands of Mr. Legge of Welling and his servants the death which their villainies and outrageous excesses deserved." The Castle stood where the Butter Cross afterwards stood, overlooking the town; but, with the exception of the name of the Castle Moat, there is nothing remaining of it. The *ch.*, a plain square-towered building of the last centy., has within the last two years been substantially restored, with the exception of the tower. *Offa's Dyke*, that wonderful line of partition raised by Offa to divide the kingdom of Mercia from the Welch, runs through the E. end of Knighton on its course N. and S. Of it Churchyard says:—

"There is a famous thing
Calde Offa's Dyke, that reacheth farre in lengthe:
All kind of ware people might thither bringe;
It was free ground and calde the Britain's strength."

1 m. S.E. of Knighton is *Farrington*, now a farmhouse, but once the residence of the Cutler family. The letters R. C. and the date 1666 are still visible.

The tourist should make an excursion for 2 m. on the Knucklas road to *Craig Donna*, a very picturesque rock and ravine, originally tenanted, it is said, by an anchorite named Donna, who lived in the 7th centy.

Rail from Knighton (Central Wales) to Craven Arms, 13 m. on the E.; and to Llandrindod Wells, 19½ m.; Llandovery, 47 m.; and Swansea on the W.

Distances.—Presteign, 6½ m.; Coxwall Knoll, 5; Caer Caradoc, 3½; Knucklas, 2½; Clun, 7; Kington, 13½ m.

There is no conveyance to Clun. Take the road to Ludlow for 1 m., and turn off to the l., up the glen under Kinsley Wood. The high ground is soon reached, Stow Hill and the *Holloway Rocks* being to rt. and the entrenchment of *Caer Caradoc*, about 1 m. further to the N. This mountain is extremely interesting to antiquaries, on the score of its pretensions to be the scene of the last battle and defeat of Caractacus, King of the Silures, by the Romans under Ostorius. Here, however, there is neither the "amnis

vado incerto" of Tacitus, nor yet the higher mountains in the rear for the Britons to fall back upon. It is, however, a fine, almost circular, camp, triply defended to the W., its most accessible quarter, and having two lines of defence on the E. Its entrances are on E. and W., and it commands a fine outlook. It is approached from the Clun road, on the rt., over two or three enclosures. By others Coxwall Knoll, some 3 m. E., is considered to have been the site of Caractacus' camp; but it is difficult to believe that either this, which lacks higher ground to retreat upon, and has no vestige of stone defences, or Caer Caradoc, was the real scene of the struggle in which the British chief's wife and children were taken prisoners. There are no less than 5 British military works in Clun Forest.

At New Invention, 5 m., the road crosses a stream, and again ascends for 2½ m., when it descends the valley to

7 m. *Clun* (*Inn:* Buffalo, so called probably from the importation of buffaloes into this district by Lord Clive, the conqueror of India), one of the very quietest and most out-of-the-way of Shropshire towns, situated on the river Colonne or Clone, which is crossed by a high bridge of unequally-sized arches. In fact, the "sleepy hollow"-ness of the district is described in a popular doggrel:—

> "Clunton and Clunbury,
> Clungunford and Clun
> Are the quietest places
> Under the Sun."

But it was not always so, having been, as a border town, the scene of continual forays and incursions. The *Castle*, of which sufficient is left to show its former importance, was built by Fitzalan, afterwards Earl of Arundel, in the reign of Stephen. After a long siege and many a fierce assault, it was stormed by the Welsh prince Rees (circ. 1196), and committed to the flames. It is believed to have been the original of the "Garde Doloreuse" to which Raymond Berenger invited Gwenwyn, the Prince of Powys; which Sir Walter Scott has thus described in his 'Betrothed':—

"A place strong by nature and well fortified by art, which the Welch Prince had found it impossible to conquer either by open force or stratagem, and which, remaining with a strong garrison in his rear, often checked his invasions by rendering his retreat precarious. The river washes on three sides the brow of the proud eminence on which the Castle is situated, curves away from the fortress and its corresponding village on the W., and the hill sinks downwards to an extensive plain, so extremely level as to indicate its alluvial origin." Clun Castle was dismantled first of all by Owain Glyndwr in his rebellion against Henry IV., and afterwards blown up by the Parliamentary forces. The banqueting hall is still left, with the sleeping apartments above. There are also the halves of two strong postern towers. The outer bailey, very extensive, has probably been defended only by earthworks. In the village is a quadrangular building, with a small chapel in one angle, which represents a hospital founded in 1614 for 14 poor brethren and a warden.

The fine late Norm. *church* has been admirably restored by Mr. Street. The chancel is E. E., the nave Norm. Over the E. end of the ch. is a very remarkable (15th-cent. ?) canopy, suspended from the roof (Prof. Westcott). The Lychgate is old and curious.

In the reign of Henry VIII. the Forest of Clun contained 1700 acres, a good amount of timber, red deer, and roes, according to Leland.

Distances.—Clunton, 2½ m.; Clunbury, 5 m.; Bury Ditches, 3 m.

The road to Bishop's Castle, 6 m., is through a very picturesque and diversified country. It ascends a hill for 2 m., where the antiquary should turn to the rt. for 1½ m. to visit the

Bury Ditches, situated at the summit of a considerable hill to the rt. They are elliptical in form, and enclose within three very lofty valla of small loose stones an area of some 3 or 4 acres. The hill is a large knoll, very steep on all sides except the N.E., where the approach is more gradual. The only original entrance appears to be from the W. Mr. Wright believes them to be of Saxon date and origin, and thinks that they are not so much a camp as the remains of the house of a Saxon chief, dating probably from about the 6th centy. "It was the Saxon method to build a wooden house on some elevated position, and make a large enclosure, protected by a regular vallum and ditch, to defend it from attacks from without. The great strength of the enclosure here would be explained by its being so close to the borders of Wales, and therefore very liable to attack."—*Trans. Woolhope Club.*

The access to the Bury Ditches is by a rural lane diverging from the high road at the village of Clunton, and ascending for the distance of 1½ m.

Whatever may be the origin of these curious earthworks, there is a magnificent view from the summit, especially on the E. towards the Longmynd and the Stiper Stones. The botanist will meet with the oak fern and the prickly shield fern (*Polystichum aculeatum*); also *Fedia olitoria* (lamb's lettuce), *Dianthus caryophyllus* (wild clove pink), and *Bidens cernua* (nodding sun-marigold).

On the E. side of the slopes of Bury Ditches is *Walcot Park*, the beautiful residence of the Earl of Powis, whose ancestor bought it from the Walcots in the last centy. The house is rather plain, of red brick, but the grounds are charming, and are ornamented with an artificial lake of considerable length.

6 m. *Bishop's Castle* (Pop. 2091) (*Inn:* Castle) is as quiet a little town as Clun, and with less of interest. It was originally called Lydbury Castle, and founded by the Bp. of Hereford before 1127, for the protection of the dwellers on the border, where that prelate would have control over 18,000 acres of territory, and become of necessity a Lord Marcher. It was not a popular residence, however, as appears from a letter of Prince Edward in 1263, from Shrewsbury to the King, desiring him to compel Bp. Aquablanca to abide in the Castle of Lydbury. Bp. Swinfield passed four nights there on his visitation in May, 1290, and his castle had a dovecot and garden, a range of forest, woodland, and a park for deer. Its situation is picturesque on the summit and slopes of a hill, at the bottom of which, and almost outside the town, is the *church*, originally a Norman building, which has been rebuilt, saving the tower. A few fragments remain of the old ch., which is said to have been burnt in the rebellion. There is a tradition that Bishop's Castle extended much further to the S., probably arising from the position of the church. Of the Castle, which belonged to the Bishops of Hereford, there is no trace, beyond the walls of the keep, identified with the site of a bowling-green attached to the inn. At Bishop's Castle was born Jeremiah Stephens, 1664, a prebendary of Biggleswade, and colleague of Sir Henry Spelman in his work on the English Councils.

[From Bishop's Castle a branch rly. runs to Craven Arms, passing, l., *Oakeley House* (Rev. A. Oakeley); and, 2 m., *Lydham Heath Stat.* 1 m.

to the N. is the village of More, and the entrance of the avenue to *Linley Hall*, the seat of J. More, Esq. The Lord of More was, as a constable of the King's host, to assume the command of 200 footsoldiers, whenever any King of England crossed the border of Wales in hostile array, marching in the van of the army, and carrying with his own hand the royal standard. The family of More came over from Normandy with the Conqueror, and was early connected by marriage with Roger de Montgomery. They held lands in Shropshire, Cornwall, Cheshire, and Lancashire, ever since the first year of Henry II.'s reign, by the tenure of Grand Serjeantry. Of this family was Richard More, the friend of Sir Robert Harley, and M.P. for Bishop's Castle in the Long Parliament. His son defended Hopton Castle against the Royalists. The timber in the park is very beautiful, and the first larch ever planted in England was placed here by Robert More, the friend of Linnæus, 1742. Remains of a Roman villa were discovered in the park on the banks of the Ony.

4 m. *Eaton Stat.*

5½ m. *Plowden Stat. Plowden Hall* is the seat of W. F. Plowden, Esq., whose family has been settled here since the siege of Acre. "There is an old tradition that an ancestor who was taken prisoner at the siege of Acre, vowed that if he ever obtained his liberty, he would build a chapel when he returned to Plowden. He recovered his freedom, and built the chapel adjoining the parish ch. of Lydbury North, which has long been used as the burying-place of the family."—*Walford.*

7½ m. *Horderly Stat.*

11 m. CRAVEN ARMS JUNC. (Rte. 1).]

There are two roads from Bishop's Castle to Minsterley. 1. By Corndon—very picturesque, and the most suited to the pedestrian. 2. By Chirbury, 18 m., longer but more level.

1. Ascending the hill, the road passes, rt., *Oakeley House* (Rev. A. Oakeley), and at 1 m. turn to the rt. At Snead cross the Camlad, and a little beyond take the lane to the rt. This saves a long round of at least 2½ m. There is a fine camp immediately above Snead, and overlooking *Raveries.* The pedestrian will regain the main road not far from Hyssington and enter the picturesque district of *Corndon*, a district of much interest to the geologist. To the rt. are the outliers and the main ridge of the *Stiper Stones*, a long range of hills running nearly due N. and S., and forming the western face of the chain, of which the Longmynd over *Church Stretton* (Rte. 1) is the eastern. "These stony masses appear to the artist like insulated Cyclopean ruins jutting out upon a lofty moorland ridge at heights varying from 1500 to 1611 ft. above the sea. On reaching the summit the traveller sees below him to the W. a rapid slope and beyond it a picturesque hilly tract, the strata of which are laden with lower Silurian fossils and diversified by a variety of rocks of igneous origin. The Stiper Stones are outstanding fragments of a thick band of silicious sandstone. Though in parts veined, altered and fractured, and occasionally passing into quartz rock, they yet form an integral portion of the outlying schistose formation, while fragments of the shells called Linguleæ occur in them. The rock has all the appearance of having been altered by the influence of the heat which must have accompanied the evolutions of those igneous rocks (chiefly greenstone) which occur on both sides the ridge."—*Siluria.* The *Corndon Mountain*, which is a most conspicuous and picturesque feature

on the l. of the road, facing the Stiper Stones, is a mass of eruptive trap, and the ground around its base is composed of alternations of Llandeilo rocks with bands of felspathic ash. As is so often the case in eruptive districts, mineral veins are frequent, and a considerable amount of lead ore has been raised. The principal mines are the Snailbeach and Bog mines, the yield for 1866 having been 3275 tons. The former, which belongs to the Marquis of Bute, is very deep.

Some interesting early remains are to be found at the S.E. base of the Corndon Mt. The *Marsh Pool* circle consisted of 32 upright stones, and was at one extremity. The *Whetstones*, 3 in number, which probably formed a portion of a larger circle—mutilated fragments—are at the other. On the elevation between them are the larger works of *Mitchell's Fold*, consisting of 14, disposed in an irregular circle, 90 ft. from N. to S., and 85 ft. from E. to W. There is a second circle near it. It is not known who Mitchell was, but there is a curious tradition that a giant used to milk his cow here, which was unusually productive, till one day an old hag attempted to milk her in a riddle. The cow became disgusted, and wandered away into Warwickshire, where she became famous under the name of the Dun Cow. Mr. Hartshorne sees in these circles a very great resemblance to the remains at Stanton Drew and Abury.

The White Grit mine is passed close to the road on right at the S. end of Shelve Hill. There are also lead-mines on Stapeley Hill, opposite. 2 or 3 m. further on, the road runs through a long and romantic defile as it descends from the hilly ground into the open, which it re-enters at

13 m. *Minsterley.*

2. The other route from Bishop's Castle also passes through Snead, where it enters an outlying corner of Montgomeryshire, and follows the course of the *Camlad.*

At 4 m. *Broadway* (John Owen, Esq.) the road on rt. goes off to Hyssington and Minsterley. *Hyssington Ch.* is remarkable for several cracks in the walls, caused, according to a local legend, by an enormous bull, which was the terror of the surrounding country, and which grew bigger and bigger every day. At last the people got the parson of Hyssington to exorcise him; whereupon, by constant reading of texts, the beast shrank into dimensions sufficiently small to allow of his being driven into the ch. Unfortunately, before he was completely extinguished, the parson's candle burnt out, and, ere the morning came, when the reading could be resumed, the bull swelled out again until he burst the church walls. In this story again we have the fable of the Dun Cow. Near Hyssington is an earthwork known as *Simond's Castle.*

5½ m. *Churchstoke*, a pretty village at the junction of the Camlad (said to be the only stream which flows from England into Wales), Caebitra, and Lach brooks, which, still under the name of the former stream, flow due N. through a charming and picturesque glen known as *Marrington Dingle. Marrington Hall*, the grounds of which extend along the W. bank, is the seat of J. Davies, Esq. It is a very striking black-and-white timbered structure, of the date circa 1600 A.D., and was built by Richard Lloyd, to whose grandsire the manor passed by marriage with the heiress of the Bowlers. In front of the mansion is a curious sun-dial, coeval with the building, and bearing date 1595. It is a square stone pillar, on which is the Lloyd crest, and the arms of six associated families, with the legend

"From day to day these shades do flee,
And so this life passeth away."

Marrington was sold by the son of its builder to the first Lord Craven, and has since repeatedly changed hands. Between Churchstoke and Chirbury is the ancient British work of Caer-Bre.

8½ m. *Chirbury* is supposed to have once been the site of a castle built by Æthelfled, a Queen of Mercia. However that may be, the celebrity of Chirbury arises from its having been the residence of Lord Herbert of Chirbury, who was born in 1581 at Montgomery Castle. He was one of the most polished ornaments of the Court of James I., and in addition to his military services in the Netherlands, was, like his brother George Herbert, a man of mark in literature. It was here that he wrote his work 'De Veritate,' with a view to prove the uselessness of revelation (1624). The ch. was built in 1127 by Humphry de Winsbury, sheriff of the county.

[2½ m. distant on the W. is *Montgomery* (*Hotels:* Dragon, Wynnstay Arms). See *Handbook for North Wales.* The road to it crosses Offa's Dyke, which here forms the boundary line between Wales and Salop.] Passing 9 m. l. *Walcot* (the Earl of Powis), the road runs N.E., and at 11 m. joins the high road between Shrewsbury and Newtown. 12 m. rt. is a considerable sheet of water, 45 acres in extent, known as Marton Pool; and on the l. is the wild and hilly district of the *Long Mountain*, which separates the valleys of the Rea and the Severn.

14 m. *Brockton*, where the Minsterley road turns off, and crosses the Rea.

18 m. *Minsterley*, from whence a branch of the London and North-Western runs to Shrewsbury, 10 m. Mr. Eyton thinks that Minsterley was in Saxon times the mother ch. of Westbury and Habberley. It is of the date of the 16th centy. To the S.W. of Minsterley, on Callow Hill, there is a camp—rectangular, and surrounded by a fosse 4 yds. wide—which commands a good view of Habberley and the lead-mines.

1½ m. *Pontesbury Stat.*, 2 m. from which is a double British camp, on the top of Pontesford Hill. The Hall (W. H. Sparrow, Esq.). *Pontesbury Ch.* was originally collegiate, still consists of three portions, rectories or prebends, and has a broad nave with aisles and a tower of 3 stages on the N. side between the nave and chancel. It was rebuilt in 1828. A little to the S. of Habberley is *Marstly*, identified by Mr. Eyton as the park of Marsetalie, mentioned in Domesday. "It is recorded among the ancient customs of Shrewsbury that when the King visited the town, the sheriff used to send 36 footmen as his body-guard (ad stabititionem) for so long as he remained there. But for the Park of Marsetalie, he used customarily to find 36 men for eight days." The adjoining district is named Hockestow Forest in Saxton's survey.

3 m. *Plealey Road Stat.*

5 HANWOOD Stat., where a junction is formed with the Cambrian line to Welshpool and Aberystwith. *Hanwood Ch.* contains an interesting font, ornamented with a kind of Vandyck pattern.

10 m. (from Minsterley) Shrewsbury (Rte. 8).

ROUTE 6.

FROM KNIGHTON TO WELLINGTON, BY CRAVEN ARMS, WENLOCK AND COALBROOK DALE.

From Knighton (Rte. 6) to Craven Arms the journey is performed by the Central Wales Rly., thence by the Great Western to Wenlock and Wellington.

The Central Wales Line, which runs to Llandovery and Swansea (*Handbook for South Wales*) leaves Knighton and keeps close to the Teme, the valley of which is very charming. On l. is Stow Hill and the Holloway Rocks (Rte. 5), and 3 m. on rt. are the woods of *Stanage Park* in Herefordshire (Chas. C. Rogers, Esq.). There was formerly a "Haye" or enclosure maintained here, "and as appears by an inquest taken in Feb., 1295, on the death of Brian de Brompton, there was a park called Ammareslit. The writ ordering an inquest taken in Dec., 1308, had directed the jurors to value the late Brian de Brompton's manor of Ambreslyth, but the jurors explained, that Ambreslyth was no manor, but only a park pertaining to the manor of Stanegge, separately worth 20*s.* per annum." Crossing the Teme the line reaches

4 m. *Bucknall Stat.* Overlooking it is the wooded eminence of *Coxwall Knoll*, which has always been a fruitful source of discussion with antiquaries, as a possible locale of the last battle of Caractacus with the Romans under Ostorius. The proximity of Caer Caradoc (Rte. 5) renders it tolerably certain, at any rate, that the fiercely contested retreat of Caractacus before Ostorius was through this line of country. Moreover, spear points and stone balls, evidently projected from engines, have been found under the N.W. of the hill, and the site of a Roman camp is only some 4 m. distant at Brandon (Brandovium), near Leintwardine. Strong objections to Coxwall, however, are the shallow reach of the Teme at its base; the narrowness of its singular eminence; and the isolated position of the whole knoll. Tacitus also says, "Ostorius transfert bellum in Ordovices,"—whereas all these localities are in the country of the Silures. Still as the historian was not an eye-witness, but wrote his account from hearsay, this point is not necessarily conclusive. Passing the village of Bedstone, and under the wooded brow of Hopton Hill (l.), the line reaches

7 m. *Hopton Heath Stat.* About 1 m. l. is *Hopton Castle*, where a small square keep of remarkably good workmanship of Decorated date still exists. Camden says it was given by Henry II. to Lord Clifford, and in Roger Mortimer's keeping in the reign of Edw. I. Later on, it belonged to the Hoptons, from whom it passed, through heiresses, to the Corbets and Wallops. In 1644 it was stubbornly defended during a fortnight's siege by the Royalists, under Colonel Woodhouse, and was then taken and destroyed. The Governor, Samuel More, was confined in Ludlow Castle. On rt. *Heath House* (T. Salwey Beale, Esq.) and *Broadward Hall* (J. Creighton, Esq.), and further on (rt.) *Clungunford* village and *House* (J. Rocke, Esq.), and *Ferney Hall* (W. H. Sitwell, Esq.). A tumulus was opened some years ago close to Clungunford ch. by the late Rev. J. Rocke, who found bones and pottery in it.

9½ m. *Broome Stat.* 12½ m. CRAVEN

ARMS JUNC. (Rte. 1). Near the village of Wistanstow, between Craven Arms and Marshbrook, the Great Western Rly. branch to Wenlock turns off to the rt., running up the valley of the Eaton brook, and at the foot of the wooded terrace-like ridge of Wenlock Edge, which divides Apedale from Corve Dale.

[The lover of quiet, pastoral scenery, where the sound of the rly. whistle has not yet been heard, will do well to ascend Corve Dale to Wenlock, the distance from Craven Arms being about 20 m. The antiquary will find much to interest him in the quaint country churches, besides some interesting fortifications and earthworks. The road passes immediately under Norton Camp, a large quadrangular double-ditched Roman work, enclosing some 220 paces square, and enters the Dale, leaving to the rt. the village of *Culmington* on the Corve River, the *ch.* of which has a double piscina. Culmington and Siefton are associated in their Saxon ownership as well as subsequent history. *Culmington Manor House* (Edward Wood, Esq.), *Corfton Hall* (Lloyd Roberts, Esq.). Still further to the rt. is *Sutton Court* (late C. Powell, Esq.), at the foot of Sutton Hill. 5 m. Diddlebury or *Delbury*, the restored *ch.* of which contains some Early Norm. details. The Hall is the seat of Herbert Cornwall, Esq. On the opposite bank of the Corve are some earthworks known as Cortham, or Corfham, Castle, which, with the manor, was given to Walter de Clifford, father of Fair Rosamond, it is supposed, as some compensation for her frailty. Between Cortham and the Brown Clee Hill is the *Heath*. The *ch.*, or rather the chapel, is a singular old Norm. building with a nave and chancel, but no tower or bell-turret. Externally the buttresses are very characteristic of the Norm. era, and there is a good Norm. doorway with circular-headed arch and moulding. The E. end is lighted by 4 very small Norm. windows, one of which pierces the buttress. 7 m., at *Munslow*, the road and river approach each other. The *ch.* has an E.E. chancel and nave with a chapel attached, a south porch, and a low W. tower. As early as 1115, Munslow Ch. claimed jurisdiction over an important Saxon parish of Shropshire. A little further on, at *Millichope*, is an old house, the lower story of which appears to have been used as a barn, and the upper as a dwelling-house. The architecture of the door and window is that of the 13th centy., though the stones which now form the head of the arch are evidently not *in situ*. *Millichope Park* (C. O. Childe Pemberton, Esq.), was formerly the seat of the Mores, as far back as Henry VIII.; and in the garden is a memorial temple to two members of this family, who died in the last centy. in the naval and military services. The old mansion was taken down about forty years ago, and the deer-park destroyed. The present house is in the Grecian style.

11 m. To rt. 1½ m. is *Holgate*, the former site of a castle of the same name. Helgot was an obscure Norm. chief, who owned sway in this upper part of Corve Dale between the Conquest and the year of the Domesday Survey, 1078. Part of the Norman round tower of the castle appears to have been incorporated into a modern farmhouse. *Holgate Ch.* has a beautiful Norm. door, with 4 series of semicircular mouldings of the richest type. The shafts have plain friezes and richly carved capitals. The font is peculiar—a broad open basin with a narrow neck, mounted on a series of steps. It is ornamented with interlaced mouldings and figures of birds. Keeping on the l. side of the Dale, the road reaches Shipton and *Shipton Hall* (T. Mytton, Esq.).

15 m. *Brocton*, from whence the antiquary can diverge to the hill above the road to inspect the circular fortification of the Ditches. 2 m. rt. of Brocton is *Oxenhold*, the ancient residence of the Priors of Wenlock, granted to them by Robert de Girros about 1244. The prior, foreseeing the Dissolution, made to himself friends of the unrighteous Mammon by raising the fines high, and leasing the manor low. Part of the chapel, of the date of the 13th centy., still remains. The Hall, with the cellar underneath it, has been modernised.

Craven Arms to Wenlock, &c., by rail, see above.

17 m. Burton. *Burton Cottage* (Lord Wenlock). 20 m. *Wenlock.*]

The rly. takes a course on the other or northern side of the Wenlock Edge, passing 6 m. *Harton Stat.*, and 8½ m. *Rushbury Stat.* It is a charming walk of 2 m. to *Cardington* (where the Knights Templars possessed property), and thence to Church Stretton over Cardington and Hope Bowdler Hills.

10½ m. *Longville Stat.* 2 m. to l. is an old house called *Plash*, of Tudor date, chiefly of brick, with fine stacks of moulded chimneys. Some of the rooms are oak-panelled and picked out with gold stars. The kitchen has some fine oak carving, and the hall an open timber-work roof. Saxton mentions that there was a park here.

2 m. further N. is *Church Preen*, the *ch.* of which has a good oak pulpit, marked R. T. 1641. A stone building adjoins the ch., which looks as if it had formed part of some monastic building. 1½ m. to the N. is *Langley Hall*, the old gate-house of which is left, chiefly of Elizabethan timber-work, with an earlier substructure and embattled wall.—*Parker.*

12½ m. *Easthope Stat.* Overlooking the rly. is *Lutwych Hall*, the beautiful seat of M. Benson, Esq., placed on the edge of the hill, and ornamented with quaint terrace gardens. On the hill above is the circular camp known as *The Ditches*. It includes 8 acres, and is nearly a circle in shape. It is surrounded by an outer and inner fosse, and 2 valla, and is in immediate view of Nordy Bank, besides coming within the observation of the Caer Caradoc, Bury Ditches, and the Wrekin defensive stations.

15 m. *Presthope Stat.*, 3 m. to the N. of which is the village of *Kenley*, where Sir A. Alison, the historian, was born. His father was rector in 1792, and wrote here his 'Letters on Taste.'

18 m. *Wenlock* or *Much Wenlock Stat.* (*Inns:* Gaskell Arms; Raven; Stork, the last good in a homely way). Pop. 1500. The town of Wenlock, according to Camden "famous for limestone, but formerly in King Richard II.'s time for a copper mine," is situated on high and exposed ground near the northern end of Wenlock Edge, and this position obtained for it, as we are informed in the 'Monasticon,' the name of "Winnica" or winding place. It is now little more than a village, which would scarcely be noticeable, were it not for the beautiful ruins of the *Priory*, once one of the richest and most important priories in England. But previous to this date, Wenlock was a place of much renown, from its having been the seat of a nunnery, and the burial place of St. Milburgh, granddaughter of Penda, and daughter of Merwald, Kings of Mercia, whose name is also preserved in Stoke St. Milborough. Whatever might have been the extent of this establishment, all traces were destroyed (it was supposed) by the Danes in the 9th centy., although 200 years afterwards it was again chosen for a ch. by Leofric, Earl of Mercia, and his wife Godiva, of Coventry fame, in the time of King Edward the Confessor. But this second Saxon foundation scarcely

lasted above 30 years, and we find that its priories were placed at the disposal of Roger de Montgomery, one of the Conqueror's followers, who about the year 1080 founded the present Priory for Benedictines, which was affiliated as a cell or dependency upon the great mother Abbey Church of Clugny. The conventual ch. was formerly dedicated to the Holy Trinity, but as the tradition of St. Milburgh's death and burial still remained, it was too valuable a suggestion not to be utilized, and we accordingly find that a boy, running over the site of the proposed building, trod upon the saint's tomb, which instantly became endowed with miraculous virtues and gave forth balsamic exhalations. These odours, according to William of Malmesbury (De Gestis Reg. L. II. c. 13), were so powerful as to cure persons afflicted with king's evil: "regius morbus medicis sane incurabilis." This followed upon the translation of St. Milburgh's relics in 1101. From that time the priory (for the Cluniacs had no abbeys, only priories, in England, dependent on foreign mother churches), increased in riches and importance till the reign of Edward III., when it was seized by the Crown. In Richard II.'s reign it was declared denizen and ceased to be dependent on any foreign house. At the Dissolution the body consisted of a prior, 21 friars, and 11 monks. The ruins, which include 30 acres, are close to the parish ch.-yd., and consist of a portion of the S. side of the nave, a fragment of the N. transept, a larger portion of the S. transept, the chapter-house, and the Prior's apartments. Sufficient of the foundations remain to show that the total length of the ch. was 401 ft. Of the W. front, which is E. Eng. the great W. window is gone, and there only remains one small one of geometrical style, "that is, a single arch, enclosing two lancet lights, the head filled with an open circle, the jambs of the windows furnished with slender columns, and the arch divided into mouldings." The remains of the nave (S. side) are 3 pointed arches, with a triforium of lancet arches, and above them again a row of clerestory windows. The pillars of the nave support a groined roof, the floor of one apartment lighted by the W. window just mentioned. The S. transept has also 3 arches with clustered columns, and a triforium above. Of the centre tower only the bases of the 4 piers remain, at the intersection of the nave and transepts. In length the minster more than equals Hereford, and exceeds Rochester, among our old cathedrals. In point of structure and symmetry it must have rivalled our noblest churches. The dimensions were 332 ft.; the nave 117 ft. × 38 ft., or, with aisles, 61 ft. 3 in.; the side-walls being 60 ft. high. The tower occupied a square 48 ft. × 46 ft.; the transept was 144 ft. from N. to S.; the aisleless Lady Chapel 41 ft. × 23 ft. (*M. Walcott*).

The chapter-house — the richest building now extant—was entered from the cloister by a circular-headed doorway, which with the windows on either side are ornamented with chevron mouldings. The most perfect portion is the N. and S. wall— "at about 3 ft. from the floor is a projection having a chevron moulding, from which rise two clusters of 6 small round shafts which divide the space into 3 compartments of 15 ft. These columns are 5 ft. high, and have capitals variously ornamented, from which issue a corresponding number of ribs which formed the groined roof. In the spaces between the clusters of columns are 5 small circular arches, resting on columns consisting of 3 shafts, above which, up to the groining of the roof, the space is covered by rows of intersecting arches, each springing from the intersecting point

of the arches beneath them. The capitals display every variety of fanciful design on the S., but on the N. the sculptures have never been completed, and the decoration is scanty, except on the groups of pillars from which rose the broad ribs of the vaulting, which have elaborate carvings in a continuous pattern on their capitals. This beautiful specimen of Norm. architecture is probably the work of Roger de Montgomery, and from the bases of 6 plain Norm. pillars which a few years ago were to be seen in the choir, it is probable that it also was of the same date."—*E. S. A.*, '*Arch. Cambrensis.*' To the S. of the chapter-house is the prior's residence (now inhabited by Mr. Gaskell, late M.P. for Wenlock), which seems to have occupied a quadrangle, though only one side is now left. Presenting an unique example of a prior's lodge in its domestic arrangements, it consists of a building of 2 stories surmounted by a very high roof, and contains some of the principal apartments. Its whole length is about 100 ft., and it has a light and elegant open cloister extending throughout and communicating with the rooms on either floor. The cloister or gallery is divided into compartments by large buttresses at regular intervals, and these again are subdivided into 2 compartments by smaller buttresses, the space between being filled in with 2 trefoil-headed lights, and divided horizontally by a transom. The arrangement is the same for the lower story"—*A. C.* Notice the water-drains from the upper rooms, carved with lions' heads and grotesque figures. On the ground floor is also the kitchen, now a brewhouse, and opening into it is what Mr. Parker calls a *garde-robe*, which often occurs in mediæval buildings. Next to this is what was once the bakehouse, succeeded by a small modernised room. At the end is the oratory or prior's private chapel, which contains an altar, open underneath for the reception of relics, and a stone reading-desk, rudely carved with Norm. foliage. The prior's Hall is a fine room of 3 bays, lighted by 4 windows of 2 lights each, on the 1st floor, over which is now the kitchen. This was not the refectory of the abbey, but merely a private dining-room. It contains a fireplace of late date, and a drain at the N.E. angle, ending in a lion's head.

A flowered cornice runs round the top of the wall, and the roof is of oak, of great beauty of construction and design. Adjoining the Hall is the prior's parlour. Mr. Blore considers the age of the building to be about the middle of the 15th centy., although "the roof indicates an age anterior to the date of the building of which it forms a part." A large portion of the Priory was pulled down many years ago by a vandal in the shape of a house agent, but further ruin was stopped by the then Sir W. W. Wynne, from whom, by an interchange of property, it passed to the late W. Milnes Gaskell, M.P.

The *parish ch.*, which closely adjoins the abbey ruins, is of mixed style, from Norm. to Dec., and consists of chancel, nave, and aisles, with a low tower and spire. On the N. of the chancel is an aumbry and piscina; on the S. are sedilia. On either side of the E. window are niches for a figure, under Decorated canopies. There are one or two *brasses*. The only other object of antiquity is the Guildhall, a timber building with a piazza; for, notwithstanding its small size, Wenlock is a corporate borough, a charter having been granted to it by Edward IV. The council chamber contains some interesting carved oak furniture. Wenlock has also a Corn Market and Agricultural Library; a School of Art, and an almost unique annual festival of "Olympic Games,"

for the encouragement of field sports and athletic exercises, founded in 1850.

Rly. from Wenlock to Craven Arms, 18 m., and to Buildwas Junc. 3 m., there meeting the Severn Valley line.

Distances.—Broseley, 4 m.; Coalbrook Dale, 6 m.

2 m. E. of Wenlock is *Barrow*, the (restored) *ch.* of which is also Norm., although very plain. The windows are semicircular and deeply splayed. At the restoration, a fresco was discovered under the plaster, of a full-size knight on horseback. Tom Moody, a well known huntsman of Lord Forester, was buried here in 1796. Barrow is about 1 m. from Willey Park, the seat of Lord Forester (Rte. 4).

From Wenlock the rly. passes several lime-works and begins its descent through a pretty wooded country to BUILDWAS JUNC. [The remainder of this route is described in Rte. 4.]

ROUTE 7.

FROM WOLVERHAMPTON TO NANTWICH, BY SHIFFNAL, WELLINGTON AND MARKET DRAYTON.

(Great Western Railway.)

Quitting Wolverhampton by the Great Western Rly. (Low-level Stat.), the traveller passes 4½ m. *Codsall Stat.* (*Handbook for Staffordshire*), and enters the county of Salop a little before reaching *Albrighton Stat.* 6 m.

Albrighton, which closely adjoins Donington, the two churches being within a stone's throw of each other, is a place of considerable antiquity, and is supposed to derive its name from the Saxon Lord, Albericus. However this may be, it is certain that mention is made of Nicholas, priest of Alberitone in the year 1186, which is about the date of some portions of the *ch.* It has a low Norm. W. tower, the upper portion of later date than the lower, and on each side the window is perforated by a singular circular opening.

The E. window is Dec., with good tracery, but nevertheless has a transom. There is a S. aisle with a 3-light window, and a rose-light above it. On the N. side of the chancel is a fine altar-tomb, discovered during the operation of lowering the floor of the S. aisle, and doubtless re-erected here at the restoration of the ch. The legend around it describes it as the resting-place of John Talbot of Grafton, Knight, and his wife, Frances, daughter and heiress of a Clifford of Chelmarsh; and this John appears to have been the son of another John Talbot, of whom Leland mentions the connection with this place by marriage with the heiress. Leland's reference is as follows:—"Syr John Talbot that married Troutbeks heire dwelleth in a goodlie logge in the hy toppe of Albrighton Parke, it is in the very egge of Shropshire, 3 m. from Tunge." There was another fine marble altar-tomb; but that has disappeared since 1700, and was probably broken up. *Albrighton Hall* is the residence of — Barber, Esq.

3 m. to the S., just within the borders of Staffordshire, is *Patshull*, the beautiful seat of the Earl of Dartmouth. This property belonged in the 17th and 18th centys. to the

family of Astley, who erected the house in the Vanbrugh style, but afterwards sold it to the Pigots, who in their turn disposed of it to the late Earl of Dartmouth. His son, the present possessor, has greatly improved the house (under *Burn*), which consists of a centre and wings of red stone, the latter carried up so as to overtop the former. The gardens are charming, and the park contains most picturesque scenery and a serpentine sheet of water, terminating in a lake. From the situation of the house on a raised mound in a very elevated portion of the park, it commands an extensive view over Shropshire and Cheshire. Above it is a belt of woodland, surrounding the old half-timbered hall, now a farm-house; in the yard behind is a curious stone font.

Patshull Ch. is an Italian building of the close of the 17th centy., and is entered by a portico, with an armed figure in one corner. It has 2 altar-tombs:—1. To Sir John Astley and his wife (temp. Henry VII.), with panels of his 7 sons and 8 daughters. 2. Sir Richard Astley, recumbent between his 2 wives. A squadron of horse is depicted on this tomb. There are also monuments to the Pigot family. The ch. is filled with stained glass, memorials to former Earls of Dartmouth. To the S.E. of Patshull is

Pattingham, a fine old *ch.* of different dates. The nave is Norm., the chancel E.E., and the S. aisle Dec. It has been well restored by *Scott*.

A most interesting excursion can be made from Codsall or Albrighton stations to Boscobel and White Ladies, N. of the rly., returning by Tonge. From Codsall the way to Boscobel (4 m.) lies through a pretty open country, skirting the woods of Chillington to 3 m. Langley. In the distance on rt. is Brewood spire.

From Albrighton the visitor may pass *Donington*, the *ch.* of which has some good stained glass, or he may proceed direct from the stat. to

Shakerley, the seat of W. Horton, Esq. 1 m. beyond which, to the l., is *White Ladies*, in the wooded district formerly known as Brewood Forest. Here are the ruins of an ancient convent for Cistercian nuns, a Norman structure, founded in the reign of Richard I. Contemporaneous with it was the monastic establishment of the Black Ladies for Benedictine nuns, near Brewood, in the adjoining county of Stafford. The ruins of White Ladies are not large, and consist principally of a wall, a portion of which belonged to the Norm. chapel, and some circular-headed arches. "On the N. side is an open round arch, which might have led into a transept or chapel." The visitor will soon come in sight of the ancient though altered mansion of *Boscobel*, "the scene of such romance, heroism, loyalty, and other noble qualities, as will always command admiration even from those who condemn the cause in which such virtues are exercised." Hither it was that after the sanguinary battle of Worcester in 1651 the unfortunate monarch, Charles II., rode up, closely pursued by Cromwell's troopers, who were scouring the country in all directions. In Boscobel wood lived William Penderel, a woodcutter, while his brother Richard lived at Hobbal Grange, about 1 m. to the W. To these rough and uneducated peasants was the fugitive King committed by the Earl of Derby, who had before now been sheltered in this district, and no men could have carried out these instructions with greater loyalty or at greater personal risk. As Col. Ashenhurst's troop was quartered at Codsall, no time was to be lost, and the King, having disguised himself in a coarse country suit, cutting off his locks and rubbing his hands against the chimney, was conducted by Richard Penderel into the fastnesses of the Bos-

cobel woods, while his other brother acted as scout. "The heavens wept bitterly at these calamities, insomuch that the thickest tree in the wood was not able to keep his Majesty dry, nor was there anything for him to sit upon; whereupon Richard went to Francis Yates's house (a trusty neighbour who married his wife's sister), where he borrowed a blanket, which he folded and laid on the ground for his Majesty to sit on. At the same time Richard spoke to the goodwife Yates to provide some victuals and bring it into the wood at a place he appointed her. She presently made ready a mess of milk and some butter and eggs, and brought them to his Majesty in the wood, who being a little surprised to see the woman (no good concealer of a secret), said cheerfully to her, 'Good woman, can you be faithful to a distressed cavalier?' She answered, 'Yes, Sir, I will die rather than discover you;' with which answer his Majesty was well satisfied."—*Blount.*

That night the King was conducted by Richard to the Severn to endeavour to make his escape into Wales; but finding the roads guarded in every direction, it was thought advisable to return to Boscobel. At three in the morning they reached it, and there found Col. Carless, a fugitive loyalist; but it being deemed too hazardous for the King's shelter, he was taken to the wood and raised into the oak-tree, when "the Colonel humbly desired his Majesty (who had taken little or no rest the two preceding nights) to seat himself as easily as he could in the tree and rest his head on the Colonel's lap, who was watchful that his Majesty should not fall; and in this position his Majesty slumbered away some part of the day, and bore all these hardships and afflictions with incomparable patience." The tree now known as Charles's oak is held by some to be a descendant of the original, which must, it is argued, have been much further from the Boscobel House than the present one—but the whole of Boscobel Forest is a thing of the past, and it would be difficult for anyone, be he king or peasant, to conceal himself here now-a-days. If we reflect that, according to tradition, the forest then came close to the precincts of the house and stood thick and dense, as well as that the oak, if vigorous, is not more hale than other sylvan giants of like reputed longevity, the question of originality as against scionship may be well left "sub judice." It is said that Lord Dartmouth strongly supports the former theory. On the other hand, a professional writer who visited and measured the oak in July 1878, found that in 21 years it had increased in girth 11 inches, or about ½ an inch annually, since a former visit. Arguing that it would have increased much faster in its prime or even its 2nd century; he reckons that this tree would have been very small, if not an acorn, in 1651. (See Gardeners' Chron., N. S., Vol. X. p. 497.) The house is the property of the Misses Evans, of Darley, near Derby, and is kept in exquisite order. It is not shown after 5 o'clock P.M. In the drawing-room, which is panelled with oak, is a portrait of the King; the mantelpiece also of black marble has some excellently-sculptured scenes of his escapes. In the adjoining room is a portrait of Cromwell. In the garret is the hole, concealed by a trap-door just at the top of the staircase leading thereto, in which the King took his rest, after it was thought prudent for him to leave the protection of the wood. This hole is sufficiently large to hide a modest-sized man in a standing position, especially as there was then no flight of steps or ladder to cramp the ingress, and in one of the bedrooms is a small chamber, in the thickness of the chimney, which communicates with the garden outside. The latter hiding-place had

been used aforetime for Jesuit priests, whom the Penderels, staunch Catholics, were *au fait* in hiding; and doubtless the Earl of Derby, and probably many other loyal fugitives, had taken advantage of it in the Civil War troubles. The garden is well kept in all its quaint formality, and harmonizeswith the oldfashioned timber house. In it still stands the "successor and locum tenens" of the arbour, where the King sat and read on the Sunday while waiting the return of John Penderel, who had been sent to Moseley to apprise Lord Wilmot of what had happened, to which place his Majesty was conveyed that very night. A portrait of Dame Penderel, mother of the loyal peasants, dated 1662, is in the possession of a Mr. Oare, of the Green, Bridgnorth.

From Boscobel the tourist can proceed eastwards to Brewood (*Hdbk. for Staffordshire*), or return in the opposite direction for 3½ m. to the village of Tonge, passing at the foot of Tonge Knoll, on the summit of which is a clump of Scotch firtrees. From the knoll is a very charming view looking over the wooded park of *Weston*, or Weston-under-Lezard, the seat of the Earl of Bradford. The house is a large cheerful building, with no particular architectural features of interest; but the grounds and gardens are very pretty, and contain a conspicuous domed conservatory. Not far from the house is the *ch.*, in which are several monuments to the family of Bradford.

At Tonge Norton the road falls into the high-road from Wolverhampton to Newport, near a large sheet of water called Norton Mere, prettily covered with with water-lilies. From the l. towards the rly. and in about ½ m. the visitor reaches the village of *Tonge*, celebrated for the beauty of its *ch.* and its modern *castle*, which has probably seen more changes than any place of the sort. "It is stated to have been anciently the seat of Hengist, the Saxon, whom Vortigern called in to his assistance, and having been successful in his warlike engagements, he afterwards begged of Vortigern as much land as an ox-hide could enclose. On his request being granted, he cut the hide into strips and had as much land as it encompassed, whereon he built the castle." —*Burke.* It afterwards came into the possession of the Pembrugges, and subsequently the Vernons, by marriage of William Vernon, of Haddon, with Benedicta, sister and heiress of Sir Fulke Pembrugge. The Stanleys were the next possessors by intermarriage with the Vernons, and it was purchased from them by Sir Thomas Harris, a lawyer, whose daughter married William Pierrepoint, and thus brought the property into the ducal family of Kingston. Evelyn, last Duke of Kingston, sold it in 1764 to George Durant; but that family, after a residence of nearly 100 years, has become extinct, and Tonge passed by purchase to its present possessor, the Earl of Bradford. George Durant was Paymaster of the Forces at the time of the capture of the Havannah in 1761, and is said to have amassed an enormous fortune by plunder, a great part of which he laid out in the purchase of this property. He demolished the old castle and erected the present one from his own designs,—one of those fantastic buildings of mixed Gothic and Moorish, with conspicuous Turkish domes. The incongruities, however, are partially softened by the warm red of the stone. The place is to a great extent surrounded by water, carried in artificial canals of great depth, and apparently cut for the double purpose of defence and irrigation of the park. On the S. side, however, the river is dry and picturesquely overgrown with timber and brushwood. Here was a little stone cabin, called the *Hermitage*,

long the residence of a poor crazed lunatic, who had been originally a butler and had saved money. But he soon lost it, and his wits went the same way. One of the most curious things about Tonge Castle is the entrance-gate, on which there is some extraordinary carving, such as a beehive, and also a most minute representation of the old castle. The castle, which is the property of the Earl of Dartmouth, is now in the occupation of John Hartley, Esq.

Tonge Ch., in addition to its intrinsic interest and grandeur, is a perfect mausoleum of the Vernon family. It is a fine example of E. Perpend., consisting of nave, with very broad aisles, and a central octagonal tower, with low spire. The under stage of the tower is on a larger base than the middle, and is bevelled off at the sides. On the N. side of the chancel is the vestry, and there is a S. porch. On this same side is the golden chapel, of later date, forming a kind of transept, and possessing a splendid fan-vaulted roof, all the others being of timber. There is some finely-carved woodwork in the screen and stalls (notice particularly the curious "miserere" seats). The ch. is said to be the one described by Dickens in his story of "Little Nell," and was certainly drawn as such by Cattermole.

Amongst the tombs are an alabaster monument, supposed to be that of Sir Richard Vernon and his wife Elizabeth. This was believed by Dugdale to belong to Sir Fulke Pembrugge, who died in 1408–9, and whose widow founded this collegiate ch.; but the Shropshire historian Eyton believes it to be that of Sir Richard Vernon, Treasurer of Calais, who inherited the estate and arms of Pembrugge and died in 1451. Also one to William Skeffington, 1550, on S. of altar,

"An esquire right hardy in the fealde
And faithful to his prince in quiet tymes of peace."

There is also one to Sir William Vernon and his wife Margaret, with their 12 children—a *brass* under each figure being engraven with a religious text. The epitaph on the tombstone of Sir Thomas Stanley is said, on doubtful authority, to have been written by Shakespeare. The Dramatist was not 13 years of age when Sir Thomas Stanley died. One of the most interesting features here is the great bell, 48 cwt. in weight, given by Sir Henry Vernon. He also gave "a rent out of his manor of Norton for tolling it when any Vernon came to town." In the vestry is preserved a curious and highly embroidered purple velvet altarcloth, manifestly of great antiquity. Connected with the ch. and monuments of *Vernons* in Tonge ch. is a curious custom, noticed by a writer in the 'Gentleman's Magazine,' at the end of the 18th century, of the presentation of a fresh garland of roses every midsummer's day, round the effigies of the Lady of Fulke de Pembrugge or of Fulke himself. To the W. of the ch. are some ruined walls and an arch, probably a portion of the college which the Pembrugges are said to have founded here.

Adjoining the demesne of Tonge Castle is *Neachley* (G. Holyoake, Esq.). The whole round from Albrighton to Boscobel and back by Tonge will be about 11 m.]

Continuing the route by rly., the traveller passes on l. 2 m. from Albrighton, the pillar, 180 ft. high, of the Wolverhampton *Water-works*, erected at Cosford Bridge for the purpose of forcing the water up from the river Werf. It is taken to the reservoir at Tattenhall and thence to Wolverhampton. On rt. is Neachley and Tonge.

9 m. rt. *Ruckley Grange* (T. Horton, Esq.). The house is modern, but is

supposed to have been built on the site of an old "grange," or granary, belonging to Buildwas Abbey, to which it formed a sort of half-way house between Buildwas and Brewood Forest, where the monks had extensive rights of feeding swine and cutting timber.

On l. 1½ m. is *Hatton Grange* (Col. Kenyon Slaney), the grounds of which contain some magnificent beech-trees, and are adorned with deep picturesque pools, formed by the damming up of the Twybrook before it joins the Worf. The high ground to the rt. overlooking Ruckley and Shiffnal is *Lezard Hill*, belonging to Lord Stafford, of Cossey.

11 m. The rly. now runs over a lofty bridge overlooking and dividing the quaint-looking town of *Shiffnal* (*Inns:* Jerningham Arms, good; Star). The warm red-stone of which it is built, and an occasional timbered house, give it a peculiarly snug and old-fashioned appearance.

The *ch.* is an old cruciform building of several architectural dates. It consists of nave, with aisles, N. and S. transept, chancel (added to which is a S. chapel, called the Moreton chapel), a central tower, and S. porch. Part of the S. transept, of the N. wall of the chancel, and the chancel-arch itself, are of transition Norm. to E.E., the latter ornamented with dog-tooth moulding. The S. porch is E.E., and has a singular parvise or upper story. The outer door has a trefoiled arch. The nave, chancel, and central tower are Dec.; the N. aisle has some late windows inserted, and the central tower has a wide stair-turret at the N.W. angle. An old oak pulpit, elaborately carved, and bearing date 1632, was given a few years since to the ch. by the late Richard Brooke, Esq. It had been procured for him by Sir Gilbert Scott.

The Moreton chapel is of late Dec. date, and has good flowing tracery. The N. transept is altogether Perp., as are also the windows and parapet of the S. transept. The portion of the S. aisle between the porch and the transept is as late as the 16th centy.—*Rev. J. L. Petit.*

On the western face of the chancel-arch is a finial, with a very curious sculptured head and a curling stalk proceeding from the mouth. Amongst the monuments are some to the family of Brigges of Haughton, and Ernestry, bearing the dates of 1596 and 1625, and one to Thomas Foster, once Prior of Wombridge and Warden of Tonge, with date 1526. The salubrity of the neighbourhood is shown by 2 inscriptions—one to Wm. Wakley, born at Shiffnal in 1590, buried at Adbaston, d. 1714, aged 123, and another to Mary Yates, 127; her birth date is not recorded, but she is said to have walked to London just after the fire in 1666 and died in 1776. Amongst the celebrities of Shiffnal were Tom Brown, a licentious poet of the 17th centy., and Dr. Beddoes, a noted chemist and man of science, 1754. There are many nice residences immediately adjoining Shiffnal:—*Aston Hall* (J. Maclean, Esq.); *Decker Hill* (Rev. W. Garnett Botfield); *Haughton Hall* (Rev. J. Brooke), of which records remain from the date 1268, when it was called Haleston, and was the property of Sir Hugh de Halestone. An excursion should by all means be made to *Brimstree Hill*, 1 m. to the S., from the summerhouse on which, though the elevation is not great, one of the finest views in the country is to be obtained, extending into Worcestershire, Staffordshire, and Wales. From Shiffnal the tourist can proceed by a branch line to Coalbrook Dale, through *Madeley*, where formerly existed a park belonging to the Prior and Convent of Wenlock, and licensed by King Edward I. in 1283.

At 13 m. the rly. ascends the hilly

district between Shiffnal and Wellington, at the northern portion of the Shropshire coal-field. On rt. is *Priorslee Hall.* It obtains its name from once being the residence of the Prior of a house of Augustine Canons, founded at Wombridge (a little to the N.) in the reign of Stephen. On l. is *Malin's Lee,* where are the remains of an Early Norm. chapel, with 3 narrow deeply-splayed windows. Its founder is not known. Although naturally the district is broken and hilly, it is far from inviting, owing to the dreary aspect of the collieries, many of which are worked out, and the squalid tumbledown look of the houses.

15 m. *Oakengates Stat.* Here the Lond. and N.-W. branch from Coalport crosses the line on its way to join the Shropshire Union Rly. A little farther on (rt.) is *Wombridge.* In a garden here are slight remains of the monastery of Canons Regular, founded by William FitzAlan of Clun in the 12th centy.

18 m. WELLINGTON JUNC., where the latter line from Stafford (Rte. 8) joins the Great Western, both using the same rails from Wellington to Shrewsbury. From hence also the Market Drayton and Nantwich branch is given off.

The town of *Wellington,* Pop. 14,604 (*Hotel:* Wrekin, good and reasonable), in itself does not possess very much to detain the tourist, although there is an evident attempt to accommodate modern improvements to the narrow and crooked streets of former days. These include a fair proportion of good half-timbered houses. It was noted during the Rebellion for being the first place of rendezvous of Charles I, who marched his forces here Sept. 19, 1642, and then and there delivered an address. The *ch.* is modern, and is only noteworthy for its extreme ugliness, and for containing a good deal of iron in its composition. Wellington has become a place of considerable trade of late years, it being the metropolis for all the northern district of the Shropshire coal-fields and for a considerable agricultural population to the N. and W. It has iron foundries, corn mills, a tannery, a glass factory, and several nail and agricultural implement manufactories. The population has increased nearly two-thirds since the census of 1861.

1 m. N. of the town is *Apley Castle,* the seat of St. John Charlton, Esq. The house is plain, of the beginning of the present centy., but it is situated in a finely wooded park. Slight remains exist of the old castle, which underwent a siege by the Parliamentary forces in the Civil War. It is thus mentioned by Richard Baxter, who married into the Charlton family:—"But it being in the heat of the civil war, Robert, her brother, being for the Parliament, had the advantage of strength, which put her (his wife's mother) to seek relief at Oxford from the King, and afterwards to marry one Mr. Harmer, who was for the King, to make her interest that way. Her house, being a sort of small castle, was garrisoned for the King. But at last Robert procured it to be besieged by the Parliamentary soldiers, and stormed and taken when the mother and children were there, and saw part of their building burnt and some lye dead before their eyes, and so Robert got possession of the children."

The great attraction of Wellington is of course the *Wrekin,* which raises its huge dome some two miles to the S. Although of no very great height—only 1260 feet above the Severn, and 1320 above the sea—it is conspicuous far and wide, and forms an unmistakable landmark in every phase of Shropshire scenery.

Such a vast tract of country comes under its ken that the old Shropshire toast of "All round the Wrekin" has become a proverb. The visitor takes the Shrewsbury road for 1 m., passing *Orleton*, the seat of the Hon. R. Herbert, and then turns off to the N.E. by a lane which leads to the foot of the hill. The Halfway House affords a resting-place to the tired pedestrian, and a convenient rendezvous for picnic parties. "The Wrekin, one of the most remarkable examples of eruptive trap in England, is an elliptical hill about 1½ m. in length, composed of igneous rocks, having on its flank various members of the Silurian and Carboniferous systems. The sedimentary deposits within the influence of the eruptive volcanic rocks have undergone considerable alteration, the sandstone being changed into granitic quartz rock, much of which is pure white quartz with particles of decomposed felspar. To the S.E. bosses of a basaltic greenstone, of irregular shape, appear round the valleys of Little Wenlock." — *Mantell.* The view is remarkably beautiful, embracing the whole of Shropshire, the ranges of Church Stretton, the Longmynd, and the Stiper Stones, the Welsh mountains, in which the Breidden, the Berwyns, and in the far distance Snowdon, are conspicuous, the hills of N.E. Cheshire and Derbyshire, the heights of Cannock Chase, the Clent and Rowley Hills, Titterstone Clee and the Malverns, while within the radius is a wonderful panorama of Black country and Shropshire hedgerows—towns, villages, churches, ironworks, mansions, rivers, canals, and railways —an epitome of English life and industry. Some ancient British works exist on the Wrekin. Ascending from the S.E. side, a ditch is crossed near the summit. The entrance gate was on the N., and known as Heaven Gate. The other, which is overgrown with plantation, was Hell Gate. If the tourist does not wish to return to Wellington, he can descend on the eastern side and make his way by Little Wenlock to Coalbrook Dale or Buildwas, the distance to either being between 3 and 4 m.

Rlys. from Wellington to Wolverhampton, 20 m.; Stafford, 19; Shrewsbury, 10; Coalbrook Dale, 5; Market Drayton, 29; Nantwich, 29 m.

The Great Western Rly. line turns off from the main line to the rt. soon after leaving the stat., and passes l. the village of *Admaston*, where there are two springs, chalybeate and sulphur, which have a local reputation for the cure of rheumatism. There is a fair *Inn* here. *Admaston Hall* (H. Evett, Esq.). On rt. is *Apley Castle* (*ante*), (St. John Charlton, Esq.). 3 m. rt. is the village of *Eyton*, the ch. of which contains some good stained glass and monuments to the memory of the Eyton family. *The Hall* (T. C. Eyton, Esq.).

The line now crosses the Shrewsbury and Stafford Canal, and enters the valley of the Terne at 5 m. *Crudgington Stat.* The country is pastoral and pretty, but contains no special feature of interest. At *Kinnersley* (3½ m. rt.) was buried Dr. John Bridgman, Bishop of Chester, 1619-52, and father of Sir Orlando Bridgman, Lord Chief Baron and Chief Justice. The Bishop was expelled at the abolition of episcopacy under the Commonwealth, and his palace and furniture sold for 1059*l.* At *Rowton*, near High Ercal (2 m. l.) was born Richard Baxter, the Nonconformist, in 1615. 9 m. *Peplow Hall* (Col. Hill).

12 m. *Hodnet Stat.* (*Inn:* Hawkstone), the nearest to Hawkstone Park, which, as it is usually visited from Wem, is described in Rte. 12. The wooded hills of Hopley and

Bury Walls form a very pretty feature in the landscape to the l. of Hodnet. The *ch.* contains a monument to Bishop Heber, who was rector here for 15 years, and whose daughter married A. Heber-Percy, Esq., of *Hodnet Hall.* The ancient manor of Hodnet was held by the service of being "steward of the honour of Montgomery." The lords of Hodnet were bound to keep that fortress in repair. By the marriage of the heiress of the De Hodenets, it passed to the Vernons, then to the Hebers, whose heiress married the present owner. "Saxton makes a park here, midway between Cheswardine and Wem: it was an ancient park, recognised as early as the year 1257, when it was held by the family who assumed their name from it."—*Shirley.* The present Hall is a picturesque irregular building, embosomed in trees.

1½ m. rt. of Hodnet is *Stoke-upon-Tern*, the *ch.* of which, of Tudor date, contains a monument to Sir Reginald Corbet, Judge of the Common Pleas in the reign of Elizabeth. The following inscription is upon a pew:—

"God prosper long y^e^ kinge in this lande,
And grant that Papystrie never have y^e^ upper hande."

5 m. to the S.E. of Hodnet is *Child's Ercal*, the *ch.* of which has an octagonal font, with the lower half of each angle bevelled. A little further E. is *Hinstock*, formerly a great haunt of freebooters. The Barons of Wem used to exact toll from travellers for guarding passes in the neighbourhood. Passing rt. *Buntingsdale Hall* (J. Tayleur, Esq.), the rly. reaches

17 m. MARKET DRAYTON JUNC. with the Silverdale and Stoke-upon-Trent Rly. The town of Market Drayton (*Inn:* Corbet Arms) (Pop. 5,482) is a quiet little place, close to the Staffordshire border, dependent on the neighbouring agricultural population, a paper manufactory, and one of horsehair seating. But it can boast of considerable antiquity, being mentioned in Domesday Book as Draitune, the Manor of which was possessed by the Abbot of St. Ebrulph, in Normandy, and after him by the Abbot of Combermere. The grammar-school was founded by Sir Rowland Hill, Lord Mayor of London in the reign of Mary. The *ch.* has been restored, and consists of a nave, aisles, chancel, and square tower with buttresses and pinnacles. There are some Norm. details in the W. door. In the neighbourhood are many pretty seats, such as *Styche* (H. B. Clive, Esq.), *Pellwall* (Martin Harcourt Griffin, Esq.), *Tunstall* (P. Broughton, Esq.), *Peatswood* (T. Twemlow, Esq.), and *Oakley Hall* (Sir J. Chetwynde, Bart.).

3 m. to the W. of Market Drayton is the *ch.* of *Moreton-say*, which contains a Norm. doorway and the tomb of Lord Clive.

The antiquary should make an excursion of 3 m. on the Stafford road to Audley's Cross, on *Blore Heath.* Here was fought the famous battle, in 1459, between the factions of Lancaster and York, when Lord Audley and a number of the Cheshire gentry, who fought on King Henry's side, were killed. Drayton thus speaks of it:—The Earl Neville, Earl of Salisbury,

"As hungry in revenge, there made a ravenous spoil:
There Dutton Dutton kills; a Done doth kill a Done;
A Booth a Booth,—and Leigh by Leigh is overthrown.
A Venables against a Venables doth stand;
A Troutbeck fighteth with a Troutbeck hand to hand;
There Molineux doth make a Molineux to die,
And Egerton the strength of Egerton doth try."

Polyolb. Song 22, vv. 620–8.

Audley Cross is supposed to mark the place where Lord Audley fell. It is

said that Margaret of Anjou witnessed the fight from the tower of Mucklestone ch., 1½ m. to the N.

21 m. *Adderley Stat.* To the l. is *Adderley Hall* (R. Corbet, Esq.), the park of which was enclosed by Walter de Dunstanville, by agreement with the Abbot of Shrewsbury, between 1175 and 1190. *Cloverley* is the seat of R. W. Dod, Esq., and *Shavington*, of the Earl of Kilmorey. In the grounds of both places there are some remarkably fine sheets of water. The *ch.* has nave with aisles, chancel, transept and a chapel used as a mausoleum for the Kilmorey family. The interior contains monuments to the Needhams. A little before reaching

23½ m. *Audlem Stat.* the rly. enters Cheshire, and runs through a flat well-cultivated district, passing rt. *Coole Pilate*, *Hankelow*, *Batherton*, and *Austerson Halls*, now all farmhouses, to

29 m. NANTWICH JUNC. (Rte. 12). By this line, therefore, the traveller has a through route from Worcester and Wolverhampton to Crewe and Manchester.

ROUTE 8.

FROM SHREWSBURY TO STAFFORD, BY WELLINGTON AND NEWPORT.

Shrewsbury is the capital of Shropshire and a borough town, sending 2 representatives to Parliament—(*Hotels:* Raven, very good, where Farquhar wrote his comedy of the 'Recruiting Officer;' Lion; George)—and it is also one of the most beautiful and important of Welsh frontier towns. Here lived Telford, whose road to Holyhead still invites and charms the traveller, and here converging railways place him in immediate communication with most parts of the Principality.

The *Station*, a handsome Tudor building near the castle, stands in a picturesque position, with the river winding below it, and the spires of St. Mary and St. Alkmund crowning the height. The square red tower, seen from the S. end of the platform, is that of the abbey ch. of St. Peter and St. Paul, whose mitred Abbots sat before the Reformation in the House of Lords. Externally the station has a long front of 150 ft., relieved in the centre by a square tower; and from it the chief objects of interest in the town may be conveniently visited.

The antiquity of Shrewsbury is considerable, and its British name (Pen-gwern, "the head of the Alder-wood") indicates its position above the fertile meadow lands, which were then covered with trees and bushes. Its Saxon name, "Scrobesbyrig," is evidently of the same derivation. Fortified by a diversion of the Severn, which probably was a work of Cyndelan (Cyndelan Powis porphar, "the purple-bearer of Powis," as the noble bard Llywarc Hên calls him), it was the capital of the Powis princes between the destruction of Uriconium or Wroxeter, Roxcester (Leland), and the time of King Offa. After the Norm. Conquest it was the earldom of Roger de Montgomery, by whom the castle, commanding the only land-approach to the town, was erected. The Parliament which passed the Statute of Acton Burnell (Rte. 1), was held here in the time of Edward I., the name of the statute being derived from the neighbouring and still extant residence of Acton Burnell, where it is supposed the Royal assent was

given. And here, to the Parliament adjourned from Westminster, came "old John of Gaunt, time-honoured Lancaster," and Henry of Hereford, his "bad son"—

"Here to make good the boistrous late appeal
Against the Duke of Norfolk, Thomas Mowbray."

In 1403 the battle between the forces of the same Henry of Hereford, the King of England, and those of Hotspur and his confederates, took place on the plain, about 3 m. distant, under the skirts of Haughmond Hill. The spot is still called Battle-field, and the ch. bears the same appellation. The pestilence called the "sweating sickness," so terrible in the 16th centy., broke out first, it is said, in this town.

Shrewsbury is a corporate town, possessing various ancient charters from the time of William I. to James II., and continues to give the title of Earl to the lineal descendants of the great John Talbot, who was brought from the field of Chastellon to be buried at Whitchurch (Rte. 12). Shrewsbury is situated on a peninsula of rising ground, encircled by the Severn on all sides but the N., and locally termed "the Island:" in fact, so nearly do the windings of the river approach each other, that the isthmus is only 300 yards in breadth:—

"Edita Penguerni late fastigia splendent,
Urbs sita lunato veluti mediamnis in orbe,
Colle tumet modico, duplici quoque ponte superbit,
Accipiens patriâ sibi linguâ nomen ab alnis."

The main approaches are by 2 *bridges*, on the E. and N.W., called respectively the English and Welsh bridges. The former, erected in 1769 at a cost of 15,000*l.*, is a handsome structure of 7 arches, surmounted by an open balustrade, though the elevation is remarkable from the height of the central arch, which was constructed thus to allow of the great volume of water brought down in rainy weather. On the keystones of either side are heads of Sabrina and Neptune. The *Welsh* Bridge, across which runs the "reddie waye" to Wales, has little remarkable in its architecture, but replaces an old one pulled down in the last centy. On it was a picturesque gateway-tower, of which many engravings are still extant. At the suburb of Coleham, the Severn is joined by the *Mere Brook*, of which Drayton says:—

"Mele her great mistress next at Shrewsbury doth meet,
To see with what a grace she that fair towne doth greet."
Polyolb. Song viii. 445–6.

The *Castle* stands on the isthmus, and is conspicuous from its lofty position, "builte in such a brave plott that it could have espyed a byrd flying in every strete," and from the deep red colour of the buildings, though its architecture, except in some of the walls, is considerably modernised. The square keep, with the round corner turrets and part of the walls of the inner bailey are all that are left of the ancient portion. It is rented by its present inhabitant (Rev. G. Downward) from the proprietor, the Duke of Cleveland, and contains nothing remarkable but the turret in the garden that overlooks the river, and first meets the eye of the stranger as he arrives at the station. This was the work of Telford for Sir W. Pulteney, his early patron, the former proprietor of the place. In the garden below, Capt. Benbow was shot by Cromwell's orders for his desertion of the Parliamentary cause.

The prospect from the castle is magnificent, embracing the blue ridges of the Norman Mons-gilberti, the Saxon and English Wrekin, in which the name of Vr-ikon, "City of Iconium," whose ashes smoulder beneath its slopes, is virtually enshrined—the South Shropshire hills, along whose valleys and sides went

the tide of the last battle of Caractacus—the beautiful Breidden, now tenanted by small farmers, and surmounted by a pillar in honour of Lord Rodney's victory—the Berwyns and the Welsh ranges in long terraces to the W. Nearer home, to the N. and E., are the more modest eminences of Grinshill, Hawkstone, and Haughmond, rising from a rich and well-watered country, which rivalled Yorkshire, till within these few years, in the excellence of its horses.

The *Town Walls* were first commenced by Roger Belesme, son of Earl Roger de Montgomery, and afterwards finished by Henry III. to protect the inhabitants from the incursions of the Welsh. A small portion of them only remains on the S. side of the town, where they are in good preservation, and form an agreeable promenade. Here also is a square tower of 3 stories, of the same date, the only one remaining out of 20 that formerly strengthened and defended the walls. The fortifications were for the most part destroyed in 1645, when the town yielded to the Parliamentary troops under Gen. Mytton.

The *churches* are interesting, and particularly that of *St. Mary*, a noble pile of building in the centre of the town, whose lofty spire (220 ft.) serves as a landmark for many a mile around. It was from this spire that in 1739, one Cadman, who had undertaken to remove and repair the weather-cock, was tempted to the more hazardous experiment of sliding down a rope fastened to a tree in the 'Gay' Meadow, over Severn. The rope failing, he was precipitated into St. Mary's Fryars, and dashed to pieces. During the restoration, foundations of an older structure were found extending the whole length of the nave. It is a cruciform ch. of various styles of architecture, and contains a nave, side aisles, chancel, transepts, and 2 chantry-chapels. The basement of the tower is Norm., as are also the S. and N. porches of the nave and the doorways of the N. and S. transepts, which are ornamented with lozenge and chevron mouldings. In the S. porch observe the pointed windows of the side, as examples of rudimentary mullions. The E. E. style is visible in the beautiful lancet-windows of the transepts. Those of the clerestory are Perp., as are also the pointed windows in the S. chapel, and the large one of 8 lights at the end of the chancel. The spire is octagonal, and said to be the third highest in the kingdom. Internally, Norm. semicircular arches separate the nave from the aisles, springing from elegant clustered columns of later date, as is not uncommon in 13th-centy. work. Similar arches lead from the aisles to the transepts, and also to the chapels. The ceiling is oak, beautifully fretted and carved with flowers and figures; indeed it is one of the finest examples in England. In the nave is a Dec. pulpit of Caen stone, representing incidents in the Life of Christ, viz.—The Sermon on the Mount, the Nativity, Crucifixion, and Ascension. The niches have figures of St. John, St. Peter, and St. Paul. One of the chief beauties of the ch. arises from the profusion of the stained glass. The large E. *window* (which once belonged to the Franciscan Priory, the gift of Sir John de Charlton, circa 1350) is occupied with the genealogy of Christ from the Root of Jesse, in which the patriarch is reclining in sleep, while from his loins a stem ascends, enclosing in its branches a king or prophet belonging to the series, which numbers altogether 47 figures. At the base on rt. are figures of Sir Owen de Charleton, Sir John, his brother, and Sir John, their common ancestor, Edward III., and Lady Hawys Gadarn, heiress of Powis, 1291, the wife of Sir John de Charle-

ton. In the N. transept is a memorial window to the Rev. J. Blakeway, a former minister of the parish, to whom a beautiful Dec. altar-tomb has been erected close by. There is a lancet-window on the N. side of the altar, with subjects from the life of St Bernard, viz.: St. Bernard reaping—Healing a diseased woman before the Bishop—a criminal experiencing the benefit of clergy—the Saint visiting his friend, the Prior of the Grand Chartreuse—the conversion of Aloide, Duchess of Lorraine—Bernard on horseback—Healing the blind—Celebration of Mass, &c. These have been attributed to Albert Dürer, like the windows at Fairford. "As a curious instance of the manner in which Mediæval artists adapted themselves to the representation of the most incongruous subjects, there are specimens from a window in the S. aisle which show the swarms of flies, which St. Bernard had excommunicated, being literally swept out of the Abbey of Foigni." On the N. side of the baptistry is a 3-light window of the Crucifixion; also one of the Day of Judgment, in which the Devil is shown as a blue boar.

In the S. transept is a memorial window presented by the Rev. W. Rowland, formerly vicar, and a munificent restorer of the ch.: also monuments to some of the Lloyds, and Mrs. Butler, the wife of the Bishop Butler.

The *Trinity Chapel* contains a fine organ, by *Byfield*, 1729, at which the celebrated musician, Dr. William Hayes, presided — a mutilated cross-legged knight on an altar-tomb of the 14th centy., supposed to be the effigy of one of the Leybornes, Lords of Berwick — and a monument in marble to Dr. Butler, head-master of the school, and Bishop of Lichfield. It is from designs by *Chantrey*, but the work was executed by *Baily*, in consequence of the death of the former. In this chapel also are some stained windows, by *Evans*, in which are introduced figures of the Count and Countess Horn, a family of note in the Low Countries, to whom William Prince of Orange was related by marriage. In the tower-arch is a carved oak screen, to the memory of Rev. J. O. Hopkins, and a monument of Caen stone, by *Westmacott*, to Brig.-General Cureton, who fell in an engagement with the Sikhs, 1848. Within the baptistery is one by *Thomas*, to Admiral Benbow, a native of Shrewsbury, who died in Jamaica of wounds received in an engagement with the French off Cartagena, 1702. The vicars of St. Mary formerly possessed the advantage of being exempt from episcopal jurisdiction. At the suppression of the collegiate ch., its revenues were given by Edward VI. to the maintenance of Shrewsbury School.

A short distance to the S. is *St. Alkmund's Ch.*, also collegiate, and said to have been founded in 912 by Ethelfleda, daughter of Alfred the Great. It was once a venerable cruciform ch., but was mutilated in 1794, leaving only the tower and the graceful spire. The remainder of the building is in the churchwarden's style, or "modern Gothic," of the last centy. At the E. end is a window, by *Eggington*—subject, "Emblematical Faith."

Almost immediately adjoining St. Alkmund's is the ancient Norman *ch.* of *St. Julian's*. It was demolished in 1750, and the present structure erected, though considerably altered in 1846. The most ancient portion of the ch. is the basement of the tower, the main body being also in the churchwarden's style, an oblong building of brick, with stone dressings. In the interior is a gravestone with an inscription of the 13th centy. on its rounded edge, in memory of Edward Troumwyn, a member of a family living in the

time of Edward II. There is also a monument to Archdeacon Owen, the historian of Shrewsbury, and an E. window by *Evans:* subject, the Transfiguration.

Old St. Chad's, situated near the town walls, was originally founded about 780 by one of the Mercian kings, on the site of a palace of a Prince of Powis, and is said to have been a very fine building of the reign of Henry III. It was much damaged by fire in 1293, and finally gave way in 1788, in consequence of some of the pillars yielding. The former catastrophe was owing to a plumber working in the ch., the record of the inquest upon him stating, that while endeavouring to flee the conflagration he had caused, "contra voluntatem suam demissus fuit in quodam stagno fluminis Sabrinæ et sic mortuus fuit." The small portion which remains was almost entirely rebuilt in 1571, and is now used as a chapel for the cemetery, which contains the graves of some of the most distinguished Salopian families, such as the Corbets, Burtons, Owens, &c. Sir Rowland Lee, Bishop of Lichfield, and President of the Marches, 1543, is buried here; also Captain Benbow, who was shot beneath the castle.

New St. Chad's, some distance to the W., built 1792, is chiefly remarkable for its situation at the head of the Quarry, and for the questionable taste of the architectural details. The body of the ch. is formed by the intersection of 2 circles, at the E. end of which is a Doric portico and tower, the sole feature which prevents the building being taken for a Theatre or Exchange. The interior is heavy, but the stained glass is good. Over the altar is a copy of Rubens' Descent from the Cross, with the Visitation and the Presentation in the Temple on either side. The other windows represent the Raising of Lazarus, Christ Healing the Sick, Christ Blessing little Children, and the Tribute Money. There is also a monument to the members of the 53rd (Shropshire) regiment who fell at Sobraon, 1846. New St. Chad's is considered the most important and fashionable ch. of Shrewsbury.

Across the English Bridge, and on the other side of the Hereford Rly., is the venerable *Abbey ch.*, built of a deep red stone, and in interest and beauty scarcely surpassed by St. Mary's. It was formerly a large cruciform ch., having a central as well as the present W. tower, but the E. portion was destroyed at the time of the Dissolution of the monasteries, while part of the clerestory fell at a subsequent date. The basement of the tower is Norman, the remainder being Dec., and adorned with a magnificent Dec. window, surmounted by a rich crocket and finial. Above it and between the two bell-tower windows is a niche containing the statue of a mailed knight, supposed to represent Edward III. On the N. side is a porch of two stories, with mullioned windows, nearly flat-arched. A great deal of judicious restoration has taken place in the ch., particularly at the E. end, and in the S. aisle. "The choir having been destroyed, the eastern end now terminates in a wall run up between the remains of the two western piers that supported the central tower." The nave is separated from the side aisles by 5 arches, 2 of which, adjoining the tower, are E. Eng., while the others are Norman, with very thick round pillars, and it is evident that a course of smaller arches was intended to have been carried above them. The tower is divided from the nave by a lofty pointed arch, 52 ft. in height, and, by the removal of the organ gallery and screen, the whole W. window is displayed. It is very fine, and is filled with

armorial bearings of kings, nobles, and members of old Shropshire families — amongst them the Dukes of Gloucester, Lancaster, and York; Earls of March, Chester, Suffolk, Surrey, &c. The E. window is by *Evans*, and beneath it is a reredos of Norman arcades, the centre one containing a painting of the Women at the Sepulchre. There are other stained windows, with various armorial bearings. In the S. aisle are a mutilated effigy, on a basement of Early Pointed arches, supposed to be that of Roger de Montgomery, the founder of the abbey, who died as a monk of his own foundation in 1094; an elaborate tomb of a knight (Sir William Charlton) and his lady, brought from Wellington, and described by Dugdale as "a faire raised monument, whereon is cut the portraiture of a man in armour, and by him his wife;" and a cross-legged knight in mail, supposed to be Sir Walter de Dunstanville, circa 1196. In the N. aisle are the figure of a judge of the time of Edward I.; a monumental statue in armour, with a long robe thrown back (14th centy.); an altar-tomb with effigies of Richard Onslow (Speaker in the reign of Elizabeth) and his wife; besides many others more or less interesting, which have been brought at different times from the churches of St. Giles, Old St. Chad's, and Old St. Alkmund's.

The *Monastic Remains*, at one time extensive, have nearly disappeared in the course of modern improvements. The Chapter-house, which formerly stood to the S. of the ch., was celebrated as the house of assembly for the first English Parliament in 1283. There are some remains in a malt-house (S.W. of the Abbey) of what was probably the infirmary and chapel, and the Abbey House is supposed to have been the Hospitium or Guest Hall. In a garden overlooking the street, and what was once the refectory, is a stone pulpit placed on the wall, and probably used for the purposes of lecturing or reading while the brethren were at meals. A similar one was discovered at Tintern Abbey, in Monmouthshire. It contains 6 E. Eng. trefoil arches partly filled in by panels, on which are sculptured figures of St. Peter and St. Paul, &c.

The *Ch. of St. Giles*, the oldest in Shrewsbury, was built early in the reign of Henry I. for the use of a Leper Hospital. It stands on the Acton Burnell road, and preserves, among modern additions, some Norman work and a good Norman font, with zigzag and chevron mouldings, which was brought from High Ercall ch. There is also the carved head of a beautiful stone cross, one of the niches containing a figure of St. Giles, the patron saint.

The remaining churches are modern. *St. Michael's* has stained glass, representing the Nativity, the Annunciation, and the Presentation, the two latter copies from Guido and Rubens; and *Trinity* has the Crucifixion, after Vandyck. Shrewsbury has in all 9 churches.

Shrewsbury School, near the Castle, long esteemed among the public schools in England, was founded, in 1551, by Edward VI., since whose time many persons of eminence have received their education here. Marmaduke Rawdon of Yorke (17th centy.) says of it—"Itt haith a faire free schoole of which thir are fowr maisters and thir are sometimes six hundred schollers, and a hansome library thirunto belonginge." The scale ranges from Sir Philip Sidney to Judge Jefferies, to say nothing of a rare list of brilliant scholars of later days. The original building was of wood, but was replaced by the present structure, which occupies two sides of a quadrangle. Its principal features are a pinnacled

tower, flanked on one side by the schoolroom and on the other by the chapel and library. The latter contains portraits of Queen Elizabeth, Henry VIII., Edward VI., the Bishop of Lichfield, and other former headmasters. It is with the name of Dr. Butler and his immediate successor, Dr. Kennedy, the Cambridge Regius Professor of Greek, that Shrewsbury School is most associated in later times, for it was to their successive learning and talent that it became indebted for its position as an educational establishment.

A little above the school, and on the opposite side of the road, are slight remains of *St. Nicholas Chapel*, now used as a coach-house, but formerly erected by Roger de Montgomery as one of eight chapels for such of his retainers as lived outside the castle court. Close by are some ancient houses, known as the *Council House*, or Lord's Place, now converted into private residences. Here Charles I., with his nephew Prince Rupert, took up their quarters when on a visit to Shrewsbury, as also did the unhappy James II., in 1687. The entrance-hall is still preserved nearly in its original condition. It received its name from having been the hall of the Court of the Marches of Wales, which held its meetings alternately here, at Ludlow, and at Hereford. Shrewsbury is rich in ancient houses, according to Lydgate—

"So equally of tymbre and of stone
Here houses were raised everich on."

Ireland's Mansion is a half-timbered gabled building at the corner of the High Street and the bottom of Pride Hill. On the beams of the gables are the armorial bearings of the family of Ireland, which flourished at Albrighton. Little remains of *Bernard's Hall*, the mansion of one of the Shrewsbury provosts, 1288, at the corner of High Street. A fine timber house of the 15th centy. still stands in Double *Butcher's Row* (near St. Alkmund's ch.), "a quaint but repulsive locality, in which sweeps and slaughtermen divide the habitations of the chantry priests of the ancient guild of the Holy Cross." This row is considered by Mr. Parker to be the most perfect specimen of old shops in England. For some distance a person walking down the middle of the street may touch the houses on either side. *Lloyd's House*, at the corner of the Market Square, *Jones' Mansion* (in Church Street), where the Duke of York and Prince Rupert once resided. The *Drapers' Hall*, near St. Mary's ch., an Elizabethan building with a fine old wainscoted room and a portrait supposed to be that of Degory Watur and his wife, the founders of the almshouses. *Vaughan's Place* (in College Hill, now the Museum), of which a portion of the interior, erected in the 14th centy. by Sir Harris Vaughan, is in good preservation, and contains a fine old chestnut roof. *Rowley's Mansion*, 1618, near the Mardol, still keeps its ancient doorway. It was built by William Rowley, draper, burgess and alderman, and was, during the residence of Mr. Hill, who married his granddaughter, the scene of much Shropshire old-fashioned hospitality. And across the river, out of the Abbey Foregate, is *Whitehall* (Rev. T. Lloyd), an Elizabethan mansion of the same date, standing, according to *Churchyard*, the Shropshire poet,—

"So trim and finely that it graceth
All the soil that it is on."

It is truly a gem of its kind. The *Bell Stone*, or *Bente Stone*, is an old Elizabethan house in the Mardol, in the front of which is a large stone that formerly stood outside. In a house in the Wyle Cop, Harry Richmond, soon to be Henry VII., stopped on his way to Bosworth Field. A

good imitation of the old style has been made by the incumbent of St. Alkmund's on the front of his residence.

Near the town walls, but outside them, are remains of the *Grey Friary*, founded, it is said, by Hawys, wife of the Lord of Powis. The portion of the building that is left is supposed to be that of the refectory. Of the *Dominican Friary*, which occupied the hall underneath the infirmary, nothing remains.

Nearly opposite St. Mary's ch. is a handsome and commodious *Butter Market*, close to which once stood the *High Cross*, where Dafydd ap Grufydd, brother to Llewelyn, met his fate by hanging, burning, and quartering, after being dragged at a horse's tail through the streets. This was the Prince whose revolt against King Edward met with the furious and almost rythmical denunciation :—

"Quem nutrivimus orphanum
Quem recepimus exulem," &c.

At the bottom of Pride Hill is the new *Corn Exchange and Market*, a very fine building erected in 1869, at a cost of 40,000*l*. From the centre springs a lofty campanile tower.

The *Market Square* is the focus of all the most important buildings, and contains Assize Courts and County Hall, from a design by *Smirke;* Music and Assembly Rooms, and an ancient *Market House*, an interesting building with an open arcade and square mullioned windows. Over the W. front are the arms of Queen Elizabeth, and over the N. arch is a statue in armour of Richard Duke of York, which formerly graced the old tower on the Welsh Bridge, but was removed in 1791, when the new bridge was built. A prominent object in the square is the *Statue of Lord Clive*, a full-length bronze figure by Marochetti, on a pedestal of polished granite. Clive, considered the founder of an empire that was extended and upheld afterwards by greater men, invested a large portion of his Indian gains in land and politics in the county of Salop; he represented the town three times in Parliament, and was elected Mayor in 1762. His naïve declaration (stripped of its expletives) in the House of Commons, when defending himself against the accusation of laying the native princes under contribution, "I wonder, Mr. Speaker, that I did not take more," will often occur to those who pass by the sombre effigy of this remarkable man, whose mouth bespeaks an iron purpose, and whose family now bear the title of Earls of Powis.

Lord Hill's monument, in the London road, commemorates another Shropshire hero—the hero of Douro, Talavera, Vittoria, Waterloo, and many other battles—who concluded his victorious and honourable life by several years' service as Commander-in-Chief of the British Army. The column, of Grecian-Doric style, and 133 ft. high, was erected at a cost of nearly 6000*l*., in 1816, and is surmounted by a statue of Lord Hill. It is worth while ascending to the balcony at the summit for the sake of the view.

Other points worth notice in the town are the *Infirmary*, a plain, but conveniently arranged Grecian building, the front of which overlooks the windings of the Severn. The *Drapers' Almshouses*, founded in 1461, by Degory Watur, who, it is recorded, used to attend with the ministers "dailye in our Ladye's church, and kneel with them in a long pew in the guise made for them and himself." The *Holy Cross Hospital*, a modern Tudor building for the reception of parish residents stricken in years. *Millington's Hospital*, in the suburb of Frankwell, for the maintenance and

education of 50 boys and girls. The County Gaol, a massive brick building close to the station; and the Museum of Natural History, interesting as being the receptacle of the Roman articles found at Wroxeter.

The visitor should not omit the *Quarry*, a series of public walks of a beauty and extent that few towns can boast. It is bounded on the S. by the Severn (here crossed by several ferries), and lined by avenues of thick-foliaged lime-trees.

Like Coventry and Preston, Shrewsbury long retained the glories of its *Show*, or pageant, held every year on the Monday after first Sunday in Trinity, when the associated tradesmen, in gay attire, paraded through the town to the suburb of Kingsland, where arbours were erected, one for each guild. Here they spent the rest of the day in festivity. The show has been discontinued within the last year or two. Formerly these proceedings were accompanied by dramatic representations. "This yeare, 1568, at Whytsuntyde, was a notable stage playe played at Shrewsbury, the which was praysed greately, and the chyffe actor thereof was one Master Aston, being the heade scoole master at the Free Scoole there."—*MS. Account of the Reception, by Sir H. Sidney, at the Free School.*

Amongst *natives* of Shrewsbury may be mentioned Robert of Shrewsbury, Bishop of Bangor, who by his own desire was buried in the Shrewsbury market-place, 1213; Thomas Churchyard, the poet, 1587; Admiral Benbow, 1650; John Thomas, Bishop of Salisbury, 1761; Job Orton, an eminent Nonconformist; Hugh Farmer, a noted Nonconformist preacher; and Taylor, the translator of Demosthenes, 1704.

A striking peculiarity of the *streets* of Shrewsbury is the retention of so many quaint and ancient names, such as Murivance, Pride Hill, Mardol, Shoplatch, Wyle Cop, &c.

"Your trunk thus dismantled and torn,
Bloudie Jack,
They hew, and they hack, and they chop:
And to finish the whole
They stuck up a pole
In the place that 's still called the Wylde
Coppe."—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

These names offer curious corruptions of appellations that were once appropriate: Wyle Cop—Hill Top, it being a steep ascent from the river; Dog-pole—Duck-pool, in the hollow near St. Mary's; Mardol or Mardepol—Dairy Fold or Grazing Ground; Pride Hill, from an ancient family residing there; Shop Latch = Shutte Place, the seat of an old Salop family; Murivance, an open space in front of the walls, &c.

The visitor should not omit to pay attention to the famous *cakes, ale*, and *brawn*, the former of which, in particular, have been in request since the days of Queen Elizabeth.

The Shrewsbury cake is spoken of by Shenstone:—

"For here each season do their cakes abide,
Whose honoured name, the inventive city owns,
Rendering through Britain's Isle Salopia's praises known."

The Simnel cake is of different material, a quasi-mincemeat, surrounded by a tough, saffron, uneatable paste; and it is a local institution of Shrewsbury and Ludlow, especially in Mid-Lent.

"I 'll to thee a Simnel bring
'Gainst thou goest a mothering."
Herrick.

The trade of Shrewsbury is now very insignificant, although it was once the great mart for Welshpool and Newtown flannels. It still possesses a flax-spinning factory, and has one or two iron-foundries.

The neighbourhood of Shrewsbury abounds in pleasant and beautiful seats, most of which are alluded to in their respective routes. The prin-

cipal of these are *Sundorne Castle* (Rev. J. Dryden Pigott Corbett), *Attingham* (Lord Berwick), *Longner Hall* (R. L. Burton, Esq.), *Berwick Hall* (Hon. H. W. Powys), *Ross Hall* (J. Morris, Esq.), *Lythwood Hall*, &c.

Railways.—To London, 171 m.; Birmingham, 42; Wolverhampton, 27; Wellington, 12; Oswestry, 20; Chester, 42; Welshpool, 20; Church Stretton, 12; Ludlow, 27; Hereford, 51; Crewe, 32; Wem, 11; Stafford, 29; Newtown, 34; Aberystwith, 81½; Minsterley, 9; Llanymynach, 18 m.

Distances.—Montgomery, 22 m.; Wroxeter, 5; Uffington, 2½; Sundorne, 2½; Hawkestone, 14; Haughmond, 3½; Battlefield, 3 m.

Excursions.—1. To Atcham and Wroxeter. 2. To Haughmond Abbey. 3. To Battlefield.

An interesting short walk may be taken to *Shelton*, 1¾ m. on the Holyhead road, crossing the Welsh Bridge, and passing through the district of Frankwell, or "the auntient streete cal'd Fraunckarell many a day." At the point where the Oswestry road diverges stands the shell of what was once a magnificent oak, known as *Glyndwr's Oak*, from a tradition that he climbed up it, to witness the issue of the Battle of Shrewsbury. The tree is situate on high ground on the rt. bank of the river, and from its branches the irregular and wild Glendower might have seen the royal standard floating in the breeze on Shrewsbury Castle. The latest measurements make the tree's girth near the ground 42 ft., and at 5 ft. from the ground 29 ft. The height to the top of the main trunk is 41 ft. 6 in. It is hollow and paved with small pebbles, and entered by an opening 4 ft. 4 in. high. The internal measurement at 3 ft. from the ground is 31 ft.—*Gardeners' Chronicle*, April 12th, 1879. 2 m. to the S. on the Acton Burnell road is the site of the *Weeping Cross*, so called because the bodies of the dead were set down there. The name is borne by two other places only—one near Stafford, on the Walsall road; the other at Banbury, in Oxfordshire.

"He that goes out will often lose,
At length coming back by Weeping Crosse,"

is an ancient proverb. Florian (Translat. by Montaigne, bk. iii. ch. 5) says "Few men have wedded their sweethearts, their paramours, or mistresses, but have come home by Weeping Crosse, and ere long repented of their bargain."

4 m. l. *Attingham Hall* (Lord Berwick). A charming landscape is produced by the junction of the Tern with the Severn near this house. The former river is crossed by a handsome open balustraded bridge.

Wroxeter, the site of the ancient Uriconium, can be reached either by rail to Upton Magna stat., on the Shropshire Union Rly., from whence it is 2 m. of rather intricate lanes, or by direct road thither of 5 m., crossing the Severn at 3 m. *Atcham* (*Inn:* Berwick Arms), where there is a very picturesque *ch.* close to the river-side. The lower portion of the tower is of good Norm. work. Amongst the list of incumbents of Atcham was Orderic the Priest, who in 1075 baptized and stood sponsor for Ordericus Vitalis, the historian and chaplain of William the Conqueror. Ordericus is supposed to have been the very earliest parish priest in any locality in Shropshire.

5 m. *Wroxeter.*—Here is a fine old Norm. *ch.*, with later alterations. The tower has decorated bands on the W. face, and in the upper stage are two niches, one on each side the window. In the interior are some unique altar-tombs of the 16th centy., the figures of which are remarkable

for the freshness and vividness of their colouring. At the gate of the churchyard are two Roman pillars with highly-ornamented capitals, discovered in the bed of the river, which flows close by. The remains of *Uriconium* are to be found by the site of the Watling Street road, in a field a few hundred yards to the north, which has been excavated over an area of 2 acres at the expense of the Shropshire Antiquarian Society, who have a lease of it from the D. of Cleveland. It is to be regretted that the prosecution of so important a work should be so often checked by want of funds and sympathy. "The area of the city was considerably larger than that of Pompeii, its walls being 3 m. in circuit, while those of Pompeii are less than two miles, enclosing only 160 acres, while Uriconium had 223." The ruins consist of a massive wall about 70 ft. in length, of unmistakable Roman masonry—long string-courses of large flat red bricks—and known as the *Old Wall*, forming one side of a parallelogram composed of a central area and 2 side aisles. "This was the Basilica, or Government Hall of the city, and attached to it on the E. is an enclosure 26 ft. by 60 ft., which may have been the chalcidicum, a room usually attached to basilicas. Along the north side, on the line of the present road from Ironbridge to Shrewsbury, the remains of a Roman roadway have been found, a pavement of small rolled stones from the river occupying the central part, with a causeway on either side for foot-passengers, terminated by a kerbstone—the width of the road, including the roadway, being 18 ft." To the S. of the basilica is a series of courts and hypocausts, supposed by Mr. Wright to have been the public baths. In all the latter the connecting pillars or columns of Roman bricks, as well as the flues, are in high preservation, and afford a clear illustration of the method by which the Romans warmed their houses. In one of the hypocausts 3 skeletons were found, 2 of females and 1 of an old man, by whose side was a box of coins of the reigns of Tetricus, Valens, Constantinus, Julian, Helena, &c., thus showing the money in actual circulation at the time of the destruction of the city. These individuals had probably crept into the hypocaust to save themselves from the massacre and conflagration which constituted Uriconium's "summa dies," and had there been suffocated. Other skulls were found near the spot where the Severn was crossed, and where the walls of a square water-tower were uncovered during the excavations. After the excavations and researches begun in Feb. 1859, portions of capitals, bases, column shafts, inscribed wall stucco (as at Pompeii) and pavements of rather fine but perishable mosaic were discovered, and the continuation of the Old Wall westward was traced to the lower parts of two doorways; and more recently 5 rooms, or ruins of them, have been discovered, which had barrelled roofs, to the S. of the "Old Wall." But for a full understanding of the importance of old Uriconium the tourist must visit it personally, and then with risk of disappointment, for the interest in this burnt and ruined city has ever had a tendency to falling asleep, and, after all, the visible relics of it are to be found deposited in the Museum at Shrewsbury, such as coins, fibulæ, hair-pins (upwards of 30 varieties), combs, statues, nails, pottery, Samian ware, glass, charcoal, grains of wheat, bones, and even a bottle of patent eye-water, with the stamp of the nostrum-vendor who had concocted it, as at Lydney. A lane leading from the city to the Horseshoe Inn (on the 6th milestone of the Shrewsbury and Wellington road) is probably the Watling Street; and out-

side the gate in this direction was the burial-ground, as shown by the number of sepulchral remains found in it.

Uriconium (which is simply "City of Iconium") was founded about the reign of Trajan (as far as can be judged from a medal of that emperor, found in 1841, embedded in a wall), and probably by military colonists from the Asiatic part of the Roman empire.

We know that a division of Parthian horse was stationed here, guarding the communications of the Roman roads and the passes of the Severn. It was destroyed by the Saxons in the 6th centy., when Romanized Britons alone remained as its defenders, and probably in one of those irruptions so pathetically deplored by Llywarch Hên. Since that epoch the city has never revived, but has remained for centuries in ruins, mostly covered by the soil, and only visited at times by the builders of the Middle Ages, who seem to have used them extensively as a ready-made quarry, from whence they might extract materials for the erection of the abbeys and churches in the neighbourhood.

The tourist should not visit Wroxeter without Mr. Wright's able and exhaustive guide (*e.g.* 'Haughmond and Battlefield'), published at Shrewsbury, 1863; and that also of Mr. Corbet Anderson, published by J. Russell Smith, in 1867.

2. To *Haughmond Abbey* the road runs past the station, the county jail, and St. Michael's ch., branching off (rt.) from the road to Wem at 1¼ m. 2½ m. l. is *Sundorne Castle* (Rev. J. Dryden Pigott Corbett), a somewhat tame and uninteresting Shropshire residence, except as regards its associations with Haughmond, placed in the midst of a large and well-wooded park, ornamented with extensive sheets of water.

The house is castellated, of a warm-coloured red sandstone, and contains a fine entrance-hall, oak staircase, and library. In the latter is some exquisite stained glass, and many articles of *vertù*. In the drawing-room is a statue of Venus, brought from Rome, for which Nollekens is said to have offered a thousand pounds.

Among the paintings are works by Rubens, Guido, Titian, Vandyck, Rembrandt, Correggio, Spagnoletto, Raphael, Salsoferrato, Wouvermans, and several family portraits.

The property of Sundorne, together with the adjoining ruins of Haughmond, came into the possession of the present owner, the Rev. J. Dryden Pigott, by will; on which occasion he took the additional name of Corbett.

On a slope of a wooded hill ½ m. distant are the beautiful ruins of the *Abbey* of *Haughmond* (Haut mont, the high mount), which present some very interesting architectural remains. The hill itself is noted as the spot where Lord Douglas was taken prisoner after the battle of Shrewsbury, his horse falling under him as he was being pursued. The Priory, afterwards developed into a monastery for canons regular of St. Augustine, was founded in the 12th centy. by William Fitzalan, a great benefactor of Shropshire religious houses. Among the privileges granted to Haughmond was one by Pope Alexander III., 1172, which allowed "that where there should happen to be a general interdict, the monks might perform the divine office in a low voice, with closed doors." For his adherence to the cause of the Empress Maud, William Fitzalan was banished by Stephen, and did not enjoy any of his estates until the accession of Henry II. to the throne. The favour which this monarch showed to him he also extended to the monks of Haughmond, who

obtained several advantages thereby. The establishment flourished for many years, with but few drawbacks to its prosperity until the Dissolution, when the monastery and lands were granted to the Littletons of Pilaton Hall, in the adjoining county of Stafford. From them it passed by purchase to Sir Rowland Hill, and then to the Barkers, Kynastons, and Corbets. When in full preservation, the abbey must have covered a great deal of ground, but at present there is very little of the ch. left, though a considerable portion of the monastic buildings. From the foundations visible, it is evident that the ch. was cruciform, and had a nave, choir and transepts; and as the ground slopes rather rapidly, it is probable that the floor was elevated into stages. "During a clearance of the foundations, on the north-western side, shallow Norm. shafts were exposed, which followed the wall of the building. At this point there seems to have been an entrance to the ch. by an E. Eng. portal about 11 ft. square, with an ascent of 3 or 4 steps. Several tiles, forming portions of the tesselated pavement, have occasionally been found, some of them curious and rare in pattern, and displaying the device of a fish within an oval icthus."

On the S. side of the ch., opening into the cloisters, is a Norm. entrance, on either side of which are figures of St. Peter and St. Paul, which have been placed there subsequent to the building of the arch. A door close by led to the dormitory, which occupied the upper story to the W. of the cloister. Forming the eastern boundary of what was the cloister is the Chapter-house, a very beautiful specimen of transition date from Norm. to E. Eng. The W. front has a rich doorway with minor arches on either side, both adorned by a profusion of foliage. In the jambs of the columns are crocketed canopies, occupied by figures, a good deal mutilated, which are said to have been placed there in the 14th centy., but these have suffered sorely from iconoclasts, whose sins are traditionally heaped on the Barkers, proprietors in the 16th centy. They are the Archangel Michael, St. John, St. Catherine, St. Margaret, St. Mary, and one or two Bishops. In shape the interior is square, but with the E. wall forms two sides of an hexagon. A fine ribbed oak ceiling, with mouldings of the 14th centy., seems to denote that there was an upper story. Extending to the S. in a line with the Chapter-house is the day-room or locutory, and to the W. of that, forming the S. boundary of the cloister, is the Refectory, of which an arched doorway and a portion of W. window of Dec. date, with good mouldings, are the only portions left. Adjoining the S. end of the day-room is the abbot's house or hospitium, from whence a door to the W. leads to the Guest Hall. A portion of the window in the former remains, but the upper part disappeared in 1810. The Hall is a remarkably fine apartment, 81 ft. in length, and was lighted by a large Dec. window, the tracery of which has vanished. In one of the corners is a newel staircase into the turret, and on the N. side is a very large fireplace. The fish-ponds were situated in a field to the N. by the ch., and the Monks' Well is behind the Chapter-house. This is a curious little building of the 15th centy., measuring only 10½ ft. by 7½ ft., with an angular vaulted roof. From the well, which is on a bank above the abbey, there is a charming view westward, looking over the park and towers of Sundorne — with the spires and chimneys of Shrewsbury in the distance. The background is formed by an amphitheatre of mountains, in which the Berwyns, the Breidden, Moel-y-golfa, the Stiper Stones, and

the Longmynd are the most conspicuous. A large park is said by Saxton to have been attached to the Abbey; "and its origin may apparently be traced to the patent granted by Edward I., in the 24th year of his reign, to enclose 20 acres, and by Edward II., in 1313, to enclose 60 acres of their bosc or wood which lay within the royal forest of Haghmon. On Ebury Hill, 1 m. to the N. is a rectangular *camp*, but so thickly planted that it is difficult to make out. From this side too there is a fine view to the N. and E. over the ridge of Hawkstone, the country round Wem, and a large expanse of agricultural district. On the return to Shrewsbury, the road by which the visitor entered the Abbey grounds should be crossed, and the path followed under the hill to *Uffington Castle*, a small tower, containing no interest in itself, but worth visiting for the view, and the picturesque slopes and woods all round. The shortest way back will be by the canal.

3. To *Battlefield*, 3 m. on the Wem road. This is the locality of the battle between Henry IV. and the Percys, July 21, 1403. "When Henry Percy rebelled against Henry IV., and was resolutely bent to attack the wall of Shrewsbury, which that King had made exceeding strong, by a turn of fortune he was prevented, and his measures broken in a trice—for the King himself was suddenly at his heels with an army; whom the rash youth engaging, after a long and sharp dispute, despairing of success, exposed himself wilfully to death. The place from this battle was called Battlefield, where the King afterwards built a chapel and settled 2 priests to pray for the souls of the slain." — *Camden.* The *Collegiate Ch.* has been well restored by *Mr. Pounteney Smith.* It consists of a single aisle and chancel without any division between them. At the W. end is a very fine embattled tower, of which the upper stage is of the date of the beginning of the 16th centy. Above the chancel window is a niche with a figure of Henry IV. The choir windows were once furnished with very splendid stained glass, representing the history of John the Baptist; but it all got broken at a farmhouse, whither it was sent for safety. A piece of land adjoining the ch. is called the "King's Croft," from its being the place where the king pitched his tent.

The antiquary should extend his walk for 1 m. W. to *Albright Hussey*, where is a curious old moated mansion belonging to the Husseys, and subsequently to the Corbets. There are slight remains of a ruined chapel dedicated to St. John.

The *Shropshire Union Rly.*, between Shrewsbury and Stafford, uses the same line of rails as far as Wellington as the Great Western trains. Quitting the General station, it crosses the Severn immediately, and again about 1½ m. further on. On the l is the picturesque hill of Haughmond, crowned by Uffington Castle above and the ch. below. To the rt. is *Longner Hall*, the seat of R. L. Burton, Esq., whose family has been settled here for many generations. The house is Elizabethan, fronted with Grinshill stone. But the chief interest lies in the grounds, which contain the tomb of Edward Burton, whose opposition to Queen Mary is related in 'Foxe's Book of Martyrs.' "Edward Burton, a religious assertor of the Gospel in Queen Marie's time, was a man indeed who by many waies and courses he took for his safety (too long to be told here), and to evade the hands of such as lay in wait for him; when one day sitting alone, sitting in his upper parlour at Longner, in meditation,

no doubt, of God's deliverance of his people, he heard a general ringing of all the bells in Shrewsbury, whereunto, in St. Chadda's parish, his house belonged, when strait his right-divining soul told him it was for Queen Marie's death; yet longing to know the truth more certainly, and loath to trust his servants therein for some reasons, he sent his eldest son, then a boy of 16 years of age, bidding him to throw up his hat if it were so, so impatient was his expectation, who finding it and doing accordingly as he was directed, the good man retiring presently from the window and recovering his chair, for extremity of joy which he conceived for the deliverance of the saints of God, he suddenly expired. And this was his Nunc dimittis, Domine."

3¾ m. *Upton Stat.* The village of Upton Magna is to the rt., and contains a fine *ch.*, restored by *Street*. It is 2½ m., a walk through pretty country lanes, to Wroxeter. Upton Magna was the largest of the manors bestowed by Earl Roger de Montgomery on his favourite Warine, and its history is a good deal interwoven with that of the early sheriffs. Crossing the Shrewsbury Canal and the River Teme, the traveller reaches

6¼ m. *Walcott Stat.* 1½ m. N.W. is *Withington Ch.*, which contains some *brasses* of the 15th centy. The Wrekin on the rt. becomes a conspicuous feature in the scenery all the way to *Wellington*, 10 m. (Rte. 7), where the Nantwich and Market Drayton line comes in on l. and the Great Western is given off to Wolverhampton, as well as a branch to Coalbrook Dale.

11½ m. *Hadley Stat.* The line skirts the northern boundary of the Shropshire Coal-field, which is less disfigured on this side than on any other. The furnaces on the rt. in the distance are those of Wombridge and Donnington.

14 m. *Donnington Stat.*, the nearest to *Lilleshall Abbey*, 2½ m. rt. After emerging from the station lane, follow the turnpike-road to Newport for 1 m. to the rt., and then, opposite the village ch. of Lilleshall and the first Duke of Sutherland's monument, turn to the rt., and, passing some four or five fieldgates on the l. of the road, you espy the abbey front in the midst of a sequestered group of trees. It is a very pretty walk, the road passing, at no great distance, the village and old hall of Lilleshall. The *ch.* has a sculptured font with Norm. arcades. The name of Lilleshall, or Lilla's Hill, commemorates doubtless some early Saxon lord. Of the abbey, founded in 1145 for Augustin Canons by Richard and Philip de Beaumes, the former Dean of St. Alkmund's, Shrewsbury, the latter Lord of Tonge, some very beautiful remains are left. Of these Rickman thus speaks:—"The plan of the abbey is very peculiar—a long narrow ch. without aisles, but with transepts, no triforium, but a clerestory high up in the walls to allow for the cloister and domestic buildings abutting against them: the nave is divided by transverse walls into 3 portions; the choir has chapels on either side; the E. window is Dec. and the W. tower Perp. Its chief feature is the round-headed western portal, of three orders, with a four-leaved flower in the outer moulding, the shafts destroyed, but one capital of graceful foliage and moulding still remaining. It is supposed to have been surmounted, as at Malmesbury, by a Perp. tower. There are considerable ruins also of the refectory and the Abbot's house," the connection of the conventual buildings with the ch. being very interesting, especially the rich designing of the E. procession-door. At the demolition, like three of the bells of the central tower of Wenlock Priory, the stalls of the choir were

removed to Wolverhampton ch., where they now are (*Handbook for Staffordshire*). To the E. also are traces of the Chapter-house, with one remaining window of the dormitory above it. Although Lilleshall was a wealthy establishment, the Abbots used to complain that from their proximity to the Watling Street, which runs some 3 m. to the S., the number of pilgrims that sought their hospitality was so great, that it caused them to be really poor. At the Dissolution the manor was given by Henry VIII. to James Leveson, in whose family it remained till the 17th centy., when Frances, daughter and heiress of Sir John Leveson, brought it by marriage into the family of Gower, and it is still a residence of the Dukes of Sutherland. The Hall is a Tudor building, very prettily situated, overlooking the Abbey ruins, and has charming terrace-gardens. In the adjoining parish of Preston is the old park belonging to the Abbot of Lilleshall, still called Lubstree Park, but now a farm.

As is evident to the traveller, the Lilleshall estate is mostly valuable for its underground treasures in the shape of coal and limestone. Some very interesting and successful experiments have been made by the Duke of Sutherland in sinking for coal through the New Red sandstone, thus increasing to an enormous extent the productive area of the field. About 1 m. from Lilleshall is *Woodcote*, the seat of John Cotes, Esq. *Woodcote Ch.*, has an Early Norm. S. door, and other details.

18 m. *Newport Stat.* Newport (*Inn:* Royal Victoria), Population 10,986, is a pleasant well-built little place, affording a good market for the agricultural district between Wellington and Stafford. The *ch.* is E. Eng., and there is a Grammar School here, founded by one William Adams in 1665.

About 1 m. from the town, just outside the Shropshire border, is *Aqualate*, the seat of Sir Thomas F. F. Boughey, Bart., in the grounds of which is a very fine mere, from whence it has obtained its name (Aqua lata).

2½ m. from Newport, to the N., is the village of *Edgmund*, the *ch.* of which contains some fragments of stained glass of rich colour, and of the rarest excellence. Adjoining it is the *Rectory* (Rev. C. F. Pigott), which was formerly a monastic establishment. It is of the date of the 14th centy., but of its history little or nothing is known.

1½ m. to the N. is *Chetwynd Park* (R. Fisher, Esq.), formerly the seat of the Chetwynds, whose heiress married Sir Richard de Peshale, Sheriff of Shropshire in 1333. The Pigott family was subsequently seated here for 12 generations. The park contains fallow deer, "but this is not the original park, for there had been one before, as appears by an inquest on the death of John de Chetwynd in 1281."

Immediately beyond Newport the boundary line between the counties is crossed and the rly. enters Staffordshire (*Handbook for Staffordshire*).

ROUTE 9.

FROM SHREWSBURY TO CHIRK.

(Great Western Railway.)

Quitting Shrewsbury from the General Railway Stat., the traveller passes through a pretty wooded country, though not much is visible on account of the extent of cutting. 1 m. l. is *Berwick Hall* (Hon. H. W. Powys). Observe the fine iron gates here.

2 m. on each side of the line is a sheet of water, known respectively as *Almond* and *Hencott* Pools. These small meres are rather a peculiarity in the portion of the county between Shrewsbury and Ellesmere, although not so large or so frequent as they are in Cheshire.

4½ m. *Leaton Stat.* On l. are *Leaton Knolls* (C. S. Lloyd, Esq.), and *The Isle* (H. Sandford, Esq.), prettily situated within a horseshoe bend of the Severn.

7½ m. *Baschurch Stat.* On *Berth Hill*, 1 m. to the rt., are some ancient fortifications, surrounded by a circular vallum, the whole defended by a deep pool at the bottom of the eminence. The *ch.* contains some Norm. work in the tower and S. aisle. Baschurch is the place mentioned as "the Churches of Basa" by Llywarch Hên, in the elegy on the fall of Cyndelan, and, strange to say, an eminent Shropshire antiquary found proof in this against the authenticity of the poem, for he says, "Bass" is a Saxon name, forgetting Martial's epigram "Ad Bassam," and that there were no Christian churches in England then. Between 2 and 3 m. to the rt. of Baschurch are the scanty fragments of *Middle Castle*, built by the Lords le Strange in the reign of Edward III. In the neighbourhood of Baschurch are *Walford Manor* (T. C. Eyton, Esq.) and *Hall* (Capt. Kenyon).

Marton and Fennymere Pools, near this, are of considerable size. [2 m. l. *Ruyton*, of the 11 towns, is thought by many antiquaries to be identical with the Roman station Rutunium. The *ch.* contains some E. Norm. details in the chancel. "Here was the seat of the great Le Strange family, which appears to have been imparked by John Le Strange about the year 1195, when he came to the following agreement with Hugh, abbot of Shrewsbury. The abbot conceded to Le Strange a corner of his wood of Birch, extending from the place where Le Strange's park-fence came down to the water of Peveree to the end of Le Strange's meadow on the side of Plettebrug Mill. This was to enlarge Le Strange's park, and he was to pay a rent of one doe yearly in acknowledgment."—*Shirley.*] 9 m. on l. is *Boreatton Park* (R. Hunt, Esq.), and on rt. 3 m. is *Petton* (W. Sparling, Esq.).

13½ m. *Rednall Stat.*, in the neighbourhood of which are *Woodhouse* (W. M. Owen, Esq.), *Aston*, the beautiful seat of Mrs. Lloyd, and *Tedsmere* (T. B. Owen, Esq.).

16 m. WHITTINGTON JUNC. for Ellesmere and Whitchurch (Rte. 10). On rt. are the ruins of the *Castle*, held after the Conquest by Earl Roger de Montgomery. It still possesses fragments of 8 towers (4 of which are attached to the keep), moat, and vestiges of other defensive works. It is said to have been the birthplace of Fulke Fitzwarine, whose history is connected with that of Ludlow Castle (Rte. 1). Near Whittington is *Park Hall* (the Hon. R. Stapleton Cotton), a beautiful Elizabethan gabled timber mansion.

At the W. end is the domestic chapel consecrated by Archbishop Parker.

18 m. GOBOWEN JUNC. for Oswestry, Welshpool, Newtown, and Aberystwith.

The first station on this Cambrian section is *Oswestry* (*Hotel:* Wynnstay Arms, very comfortable)—a pleasant busy Shropshire town of some 9000 Inhab., situated amongst prettily wooded hills in the district lying between Watt's and Offa's Dyke—the former, indeed, passing close to the N.E. outskirts. Though within the Shropshire border, its neighbourhood to Wales gives it much the character of a Welsh town, and as much Welsh as English, if not more, may be heard spoken here on a market-day. Formerly called Maserfield, it derived its subsequent name of Oswestry from the Northern King Oswald and the adjunct "tre" or town. The like conjunction of a Saxon proper name with the British "tre," a township, may be observed in Ingestre, the vill of Inge, a manor near Stafford, now belonging to the Earl of Shrewsbury. Oswald was King of Northumberland, and was slain here in battle in 642, while endeavouring to dispossess Penda, King of Mercia, of his territory. As he had been a benefactor to many monasteries, he was, of course, canonized, and the well erected to the memory of St. Oswald still remains a little distance from the ch. The first royal charter was granted by Richard II. It was formerly well guarded by a castle, which stood on an eminence to the N., and walls in which were 4 gates, known as Black-gate, New-gate, Willow-gate, and Beatrice-gate. The mound is now prettily planted and laid out with walks. The *ch.* is a venerable-looking building, occupying the site of a conventual establishment. It would seem, however, that this demolition was but partial, as the great towered steeple is still a picturesque feature, respected in the restoration of 1872–5, which, whilst levelling the pews and galleries, and lowering the pavement of the interior, has preserved the style and character of the windows and arches. *Mr. Street* was the architect of the restoration. According to Leland, "it was much injured during the siege in 1644, when the Royalists demolished the tower which stood without the town walls, to avoid the risk of annoyance from its summit." There are still some interesting timber-houses in the town, which maintains the character given it by Churchyard:—

"This towne doth front on Wales as right as lyne,
So sundrie townes in Shropshire doe for troth
As Ozestri, a prettie town full fine,
Which may be lov'd, be likte and praysed both.
It stands so trim and is mayntayned so cleane,
And peopled is with folke that well doe mean,
That it deserves to be enrouled and shryned
In each good heart and every manly mynd."

About 1 m. to the N., and a little to the N. of the branch rly. to Gobowen, stands *Old Oswestry*, otherwise called Caer Ogyrfan, a fine British post, defended by a triple rampart of unusual height, with well-defined entrances to the N. and S. The total fortifications covered a space of between 40 and 50 acres, exclusive of the area, which is about 16. A local tradition inclines to the belief that the ancient town stood here, and has gradually travelled away to its present position. There is another entrenchment, called *Castell Brogyntyn*, of a circular form and surrounded by a dyke, supposed to have been erected by one Brogyntyn, a natural son of Owen Madoc, Prince of Powis. It is situated on the W. border of the park of *Porkington*, the beautiful seat of William R. Ormsby Gore, 2nd Baron Harlech. The heiress of the family of Laken, in whose possession it originally was, conveyed it by marriage into

that of Maurice, whose granddaughter married John Owen. Their son, Sir John, was a devoted Royalist; but in a bold attempt to lay siege to Carnarvon, which was then held by the Republicans, he was worsted and taken prisoner. His behaviour, when on his trial at Windsor, was bold and characteristic, and he was condemned by his judges to be beheaded—"upon which he made a low reverence to the court, and with much gravity returned them his humble thanks. A bystander had the curiosity to ask him the meaning of such strange behaviour, and to all appearance so much out of place, when he replied aloud, 'It is a great honour for a poor gentleman of Wales to lose his head with noble lords, for I was afraid they would have hanged me.' But the stout knight had the good fortune to escape the great honour. Ireton proved his advocate in the House of Commons, and so successfully, that he was allowed to die in Heaven's good time, with his head upon his shoulders."—*Burke.* Oswestry is a corporate town and holds sessions for its own borough, at which a Recorder presides. It possesses a handsome Town-hall, a House of Industry outside the town, and a Grammar School, founded in Henry IV.'s time by one David Holbeck.

Rail to Chester, 21 m.; Whitchurch and Shrewsbury, 21; Whittington, 2; Welshpool, 16; Llanymynach, 5½; Newtown, 30; Ellesmere, 11 m.

Distances.—Llanrhaiadr-yn-Mochnant, 14 m.; Pistyll-Rhaiadr, 18 m.; Llanfyllin, 14 m.

Two excursions within the Shropshire border can be taken from Oswestry.

α. To Llanymynach by rail, the main line of the Cambrian system to Machynlleth, Aberystwith, Llanidloes, and S. Wales.

The rly. leaves Oswestry, and runs due S. nearly parallel with Watt's Dyke, on the l., leaving on the rt. the turnpike-road to Llanymynach.

2 m. *Sweeny Hall*, and l. 1 m. *Aston* (Mrs. Lloyd).

3 m. *Llynclys Stat.*, near which is a small lake. On l. is the village of Moreton. The line is here crossed by a tram-road, which conveys a large quantity of lime from the mountain-limestone quarry of Porthy-waen to a wharf on the Ellesmere Canal.

The abrupt hill of *Llanymynach* (in a detached portion of Denbighshire) rises with precipitous escarpment on rt., and forms a striking feature in the landscape. It possesses, at Porthywaen, valuable limestone quarries, producing about 90,000 tons annually. Copper seems also to have been worked here by the Romans, who have left traces of their excavations in a large cave or Ogo, at the end of which, in 1761, were found several skeletons, together with some tools, and coins of the reign of Antoninus. Offa's Dyke is carried along the W. brow of the hill, which is worth ascending for the sake of the beautiful view, particularly towards the Berwyns.

The village of *Llanymynach* is situated on the line of Offa's Dyke, and on the l. bank of the Vyrnwy river, which here forms the boundary between Shropshire and Montgomeryshire. From LLANYMYNACH JUNC. branches are given off to Llan-y-blodwell (*Handbook for N. Wales*) and to Shrewsbury, 18 m., joining the Minsterley Rly. at *Red Hill Stat.* (Rte. 10).

β. By road to Llanyblodwell. 1 m. rt. are *Broomhall* (Mrs. Aubrey), and *Llanforda*, the seat of H. B. W. Wynn, Esq. 2 m. rt. a road, which soon crosses Offa's Dyke,

runs to Llanrhaiadr-yn-Mochnant, 9½ m. At Trefonen, 2½, the Dyke falls into the road for a short distance, and at 5 m. the Shrewsbury, Llanrhaiadr, and Bala road crosses at right angles, leaving on l. Llanymynach Hill. Follow this road for 1 m. to *Llanyblodwell*, a pretty village on the l. bank of the Tanat, which soon afterwards joins the Vyrnwy. Its *ch.* was restored and an octagonal tower erected by the late Rev. John Parker, one of the first of Welsh archæologists, who possessed an unique collection of drawings relative to the architecture and ecclesiology of the district. The road now enters N. Wales. (See *Handbook.*)]

After quitting Gobowen, the rly. speedily approaches the outskirts of the hills which have been for many miles looming in the distance, and the country now becomes broken and varied.

4 m. S. is the village of *Dudlestone*, which contains several fine seats, such as *Kil-hendre* (Gen. Cotton), *Pentre-heylin* (Capt. Cotton), *Dudleston Hall* (J. Davies, Esq.), *Sodylt Hall* (J. Hodson, Esq.), *Plas Warren* (R. Morrall, Esq.).

19 m. rt. *Belmont* (T. Lovett, Esq.), to the E. of which runs *Watt's Dyke*. This ancient boundary, or more probably a line of defence, commences, or at least is visible for the first time, keeping tolerably parallel with *Offa's Dyke*, which is plainly visible on the high grounds in the parish of *Selattyn*, 3 m. W. of Gobowen. Its course is marked near Craignant by a tower built for that purpose by Mr. West. Selattyn is the burial-place of John Hanmer, Bishop of St. Asaph, temp. James I., who left doles to the poor here.

20 m. l. *Quinta* (T. Barnes, Esq.). The rly. now crosses the river *Ceiriog*, and enters Denbighshire. The banks of this river are historically celebrated as being the theatre of a bloody fight between the English and Welsh in 1164. Dafydd, son of Owain Gwynedd, prince of N. Wales, encouraged by the successes of the South Welsh, made a raid upon Flintshire, carrying off many prisoners and cattle to the Vale of Clwyd, upon which Henry II. advanced a large army as far as Oswestry. The Welsh retreated to Corwen, and were driven back to the Berwyn Mountains, though Henry, in his turn, was so harassed that he was obliged to decamp, and march back to England. The scenery of the Ceiriog dingle is very picturesque, and is futher enhanced by the engineering works by which the Ellesmere Canal and the rly. are carried across. The *Viaduct*, constructed by Mr. Robertson, the engineer of the line, has 12 arches, of 45 feet span, and is 101 feet in length. The *Aqueduct* is the work of Telford. "The rise of the canal between Whitchurch, Ellesmere, Chirk, and the river Dee, is 13 ft. in the distance of 38 miles, involving only two locks. In order to avoid the expense of constructing numerous locks, which would also involve serious delay and heavy expense in working the navigation, it became necessary to contrive means for carrying the canal on the same level from one side of the respective valleys of the Dee and the Ceiriog to the other; and hence the magnificent aqueducts of Chirk and Pont-Cysyllltau, characterised by Phillips as amongst the boldest efforts of human invention in modern times. The aqueduct consists of 10 arches, of 40 ft. span each. The level of the water in the canal is 65 ft. above the meadow, and 70 ft. above the level of the river. It was a very costly structure — 20,898*l.*; but Telford, like Brindley, thought it better to incur a considerable capital outlay in maintaining the uniform level of the canal than to raise it and lower it up and down the sides of the val-

ley by locks at a heavy expense in works, and a still greater cost in time and water."—*Smiles.* Telford seems to have been the first who introduced spandril walls into bridges in this country, in place of the former method of cramming the spans with earth and rubbish, which retained the water, and was liable to expand, and burst the side-walls. In his aqueducts he also dispensed with clay puddle, open to the same objection, and employed plates of cast iron, as may be seen here. From hence the remainder of the rly. to Chester, 22 m., is carried entirely through the counties of Denbigh and Flint (*Handbook for N. Wales*).

ROUTE 10.

FROM SHREWSBURY TO WELSHPOOL.

1. By rail, 20 m. As far as *Hanwood Stat.*, 5 m., the route is the same as that to Minsterley. Soon afterwards the Welshpool line diverges to the rt., passing, 7½ m., *Yockleton Stat. The Hall* (T. J. Nicholls, Esq.).

11 m. *Westbury Stat.* To the l. is *Whitton Hall* (Miss Topp), and about 1½ m. to the S., overlooking the valley of the Rea, is *Caus Castle*, an old border stronghold, in which traces of keep and wall are still visible, and which Peter Corbet held of the Crown after the Norman conquest for military service. "Exposed to all the turmoil of a hostile position, here dwelt the eldest of two English sons of Corbet the Norman. On the right were the mountain fastnesses of Powisland, and on the three other sides Roger FitzCorbet's position was immediately or remotely backed by the strongholds and manors of his own English vassals, or of his brother the Lord of Longden. Further off in front, looking over Minsterley, and across the valley of the Rea, the eye rested on the Forest of Stiper Stones, over a chace of Saxon kings, but appropriated, with all its rights as a royal forest, by the Barons of Caus." Caus Castle is finely situated on an insulated ridge rising from a ravine which fronts the Stiper Stones. John Thynne, founder of Longleate, who died in 1604, married Jane, daughter of Sir Rowland Hayward, who inherited from her mother Jane, heiress of William Tyllsworth, the manors of Caus Castle, Stretton All, and probably Minsterley." — *Castles of Shropshire*, p. 65.

14½ m. *Middletown Stat.*, from whence to Welshpool the rly. runs very near

2. The turnpike-road, which leaves Shrewsbury by the Welsh Bridge, and through the suburb of Frankwell. At 1¾ m. a road diverges to Oswestry at Shelton, where the remains of Owain Glyndwr's oak may be seen (Rte. 8).

3 m. l. *Onslow Hall* (J. Wingfield, Esq.), once the residence of Speaker Onslow.

[5¼ m. Soon after crossing the Shrewsbury and Llanymynach Rly., a road on rt. runs to Llanrhaiadr-yn-Mochnant, passing, 9 m., Alberbury, close to which is *Loton*, the beautiful seat of Sir Baldwin Leighton, Bart., within the grounds of which are the old ruins of Alberbury and Wattleborough Castles. Adjoining Alberbury ch. are traces of the walls of the former, an old

castle of the Fitzwarines. In this parish are two farms called White and Red Abbey, but they were originally portions of a priory of the Benedictine order of Grandmont, founded between 1220 and 1230, by Fulke Fitzwarine. The deer-park extends for a considerable distance up the slopes of the Breidden, which for the whole way from Shrewsbury have been most conspicuous features in the landscape. Bausley Hill, a portion of the largest ridge of the Breidden range, is still marked by the remains of a camp, to the E. of the *old fortress* on the Breidden. The *ch.*, originally a Saxon collegiate ch., contains monuments, *brasses*, and a memorial window to the Leightons, also one to the family of Lyster, and several to that of Lloyd. At 11 m. the Severn is joined by the Vyrnwy, near which, on rt., is a singular conical mound called *Belan Bank*, probably used to guard the passage of the river, which is crossed by a narrow bridge, at 13 m. the village of Llandrinio, in Montgomeryshire.]

6 m. l. *Cardeston.* 7 m. rt. *Rowton Castle*, the seat of H. Lyster, Esq. It was formerly in the hands of the Corbets and the Le Stranges, and passed by purchase to the Lysters, one of whom, Sir Thomas Lyster, a zealous loyalist, was taken prisoner at Shrewsbury; but his wife held the castle so gallantly against Col. Mytton, that she succeeded in making good terms for her husband.

A little beyond Rowton is an old feudal residence called *Wattlesborough Castle*, one of those few Shropshire estates which have never been bartered for gold, since it was tenanted by the Normans. The remains consist of a single low square Norman tower and north wing, with blocked Norm. semicircular windows. Four other towers are said to have existed, and to have been removed to furnish building materials for Alberbury ch. The tower was once higher, and has been finished off with a low roof. It is now inhabited by a farmer, but was originally the property of the Corbets, the Mouthés, the Burghs, and the Leightons.

The road now begins to leave the pleasant flats of Shropshire, and to ascend the slopes of the Breidden Hills.

10½ m. rt. is the village of *Woolaston*, near which are a few early remains in the shape of tumuli and a moat. *Winnington*, in this parish, was the birthplace of Thomas Parr, commonly called Old Parr, who was born in the reign of Edward IV., and died in that of Charles I., after a life of 152 years. At the age of 122, he married a Welsh girl, and three years afterwards was obliged to do penance in the ch. of Alberbury for forgetting his marriage vows, and having an illegitimate son by a girl named Catherine Milton. He was afterwards sent for to London to see the king, who observed that he had lived longer than most men, and wished to know, what more he had done than most men. Old Parr, taken aback by the question, could think of nothing better than his affair with Catherine Milton, on which the king reproved him, saying, "Fie! can you remember nothing but your vices?" Woolaston is a small chapelry and township of Alberbury to the S.W. The *ch.*, which has a wooden bell-turret, contains a *brass* in memory of Old Parr. The *Breidden*, the steep wooded sides of which tower over the road, are a singular group, rising to the height of 1199 ft., though they appear more, in consequence of their isolation. The most precipitous peak is that of *Moel-y-golfa*, nearest Welshpool, which is divided from the other heights by a deep ravine. The most northerly summit, overlooking the Severn, is crowned with *Rodney's Pillar*, erected to comme-

morate the victory obtained by that Admiral over the French fleet in 1782. At the foot of the magnificent wood-covered escarpment stands the village of *Criggion*, with its picturesque little red sandstone church. It is pretty certain that the direct ascent of the Romans could not have been possibly made from the Rhyd Esgyn ford or "Ferry of the Ascent," but was rather made by the Outher ford, a mile or two nearer Welshpool, north of the Old Mills farm, and in direct route for the Moel-y-Golfa, past Voel Coppice in Trewern. On the hill which rises behind the pillar are traces of an ancient fortress, as also of a considerable encampment at Cefn-y-Castell, behind Moel-y-golfa, which last peak ought to be ascended. The view is very charming, and particularly towards the N.W. and W., looking over Oswestry and the red hills of Llanymynach, backed up by the noble ranges of the Berwyns. To the E. the eye glances over the rich champaign flats of the Severn, with Haughmond Hill, the Hawkstone ridge, and the spires of Shrewsbury, in the distance. Southward the most prominent feature is the Long Mountain, with its monotonous outline, and there is a good look-out over the town of Welshpool on the "Red" or Powis Castle, with its noble and venerable oaks, and feudal associations. Geologically considered, these mountains are interesting, as marking a line of eruption ranging from S.W. to N.E. They are "a mass of porphyritic and amygdaloidal greenstone, which in its protrusion has carried up included portions of slaty rocks, and has thrown off pebblebeds and Upper Silurian (of the Long Mountain) to the S.E., and Lower Silurian to the N.W."—*Murchison*. One derivation of the appellation Breidden avails itself of this characteristic: making it signify Breith Den, *the Speckled Camp*, from the trap-rock. The botanist will find on the Breidden, the only known locality in Great Britain, *Potentilla rupestris*, as well as *Lychnis Viscaria, Geranium sanguineum, Veronica spicata, and Hybrida*; and *Saxifraga hypnoides*, found also in other volcanic formations.

From hence the road descends to 16 m. *Buttington*, the *ch.* of which contains a curious font, resembling the capital of an E. E. column, and a shield of arms of Sutton, Baron Dudley. The parish is also famous for the defeat there, in 894, of the Danes under Hesten, by one of Alfred's generals, and for the discovery there of some 200 presumably Danish skulls.

18 m. Welshpool (*Hotel:* Royal Oak; comfortable; good posting). (*Handbook for N. Wales.*)

From Shrewsbury to Llanymynach the line branches off from the Welshpool Rly. at 3 m. *Redhill Stat.*, thence running N.W.

4 m. *Hanwood Road.*

7 m. *Cross Gates Stat.*, soon after which the line crosses the Severn, to

2½ m. *Shrawardine Stat.* Here is the site of an ancient *castle*, which at one time belonged to the Fitz-Alans, Earls of Arundel. In the Civil War it was garrisoned for the King by Col. Sir William Vaughan in 1644, but besieged by the Parliamentary forces, and surrendered in three days to Col. Hunt. It was then pulled down, and the stones carried off to repair the castle of Shrewsbury. Saxton's survey mentions a park here, and there is an extensive mere near the modern "Castle." In Shrawardine ch. there is a good old stone font.

11¼ m. *Nesscliff Stat.* Nescliff Rock is remarkable for having a cave on its face, said to have been the residence, 1564, of Humphry Kynaston, surnamed the Wild, who was declared an outlaw, and obliged to leave his residence of Middle Castle, which even then was nearly in ruins.

13½ m. *Kinnerley Stat.* A little to the rt. are the village and site of the old castle of *Knockin*. Knockin, or Cnuckin, in the Hundred of Oswestry, was the lordship of the L'Estranges, or Extranii, who built the town, fixed their seat there, and associated their name with the castle. In the reign of Edward IV., the estate and name of the L'Estranges or Stranges, passed with the sole heiress Joan, to George Stanley, son and heir to Thos. Stanley, first Earl of Derby.

16 m. *Maesbrook Stat.*

18 m. *Llanymynach.*

22. m. *Llan-y-blodwell* (Rte. 9).

ROUTE 11.

FROM WHITTINGTON JUNCTION TO WHITCHURCH JUNCTION, BY ELLESMERE.

This line forms a connecting link between the Shrewsbury and Crewe and the Cambrian Rlys., and accommodates a considerable agricultural district in North Shropshire.

1 m. *Fern Hill* (T. Lovett, Esq.).

3 m. rt. *Halston*, the ancestral seat of the Mytton family, one of whom, John Mytton, Esq., as sheriff of the county, had the task of receiving into custody Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, surrendered by the treachery of Humphry Banastre, his steward. Of Jack Mytton, the Shropshire Nimrod and madcap of two score years ago, the remembrance is probably dying out, as there was little in it worth preserving. It now belongs to E. Wright, Esq. There is a heronry at Halston.

5 m. *Frankton Stat.* The *ch.* (Dec.) was built in 1858, from designs by *Haycock*.

6 m. l. *Hardwick Hall*, once the seat of the Kynastons; a good house, built in the time and taste of Queen Anne. In the grounds are many beautiful specimens of pines and firs, and among them perhaps the best araucaria in England. One of the ancestors of the Kynastons was noted in the time of Charles I. for his translation into Latin of Chaucer's 'Troilus and Cressida.'

7 m. *Ellesmere Stat.* (*Inns*: Bridgewater Arms; Lion, a pretty town of some 2000 Inhab., placed on the W. bank of a lake of some 120 acres, from whence its Saxon name Aelsmere was derived. This collection of six *meres* into one sheet of water is highly picturesque, and its depths and environs are most attractive to the seekers of ferns and mosses. It was originally held by Earl Roger de Montgomery, and afterwards by the Crown, who made frequent grants of it, and amongst others one to Prince Dafydd, formerly mentioned as executed at Shrewsbury. It afterwards passed into the hands of Lord Strange, and finally of the Egerton family. The late Lord Francis Leveson Gower, as one of the representatives of the last Egerton Duke of Bridgewater (the Canal Duke), took the name of Egerton and the title of Ellesmere. Its prosperity depends almost entirely on its markets for corn and agricultural produce, which are resorted to by dealers from Liverpool and Chester, to supply the manufacturing districts. Malting is the chief business. The site of the Castle, of which no traces remain, is occupied, as at Denbigh, by a bowling-green, which embraces a fine view overlooking

Chester and the Broxton Hills, Wrexham, and the Caergwrle heights, Castle Dinas Brân and the Berwyns, the Hill of Llanymynach, the Breidden, Pim Hill, Clee Hills, and the Wrekin. The view is said to extend into 9 counties.

The *church* is cruciform, with a square central tower, nave, chancel, transept, aisles, and 2 chapels. The N. transept and nave were restored by Scott in Dec. style.

The S. or Oteley Chapel has a fine altar-tomb with recumbent figures of Sir F. Kynaston and his lady, 1590. There is some very good stained glass. The E. window (by *Evans*); subject, the 4 Evangelists, with St. Paul as a central figure, and in the upper compartments the arms of Dafydd Prince of Wales, Llewelyn Prince of Wales, Sir Roger L'Estrange, and Lord Chancellor Egerton. Note also the very fine ceiling of the S. transept. The W. window is by *Warrington*, and is illustrative of the Christian graces. That in the S. transept is by *Connor*. The Lost Sheep and Prodigal Son, in the N. transept, by *Wailes*.

At the S. end of the Mere is *Oteley Park*, the modern Elizabethan mansion of S. K. Mainwaring, Esq. "Otley" is mentioned by Saxton as imparked at the beginning of the 14th centy. It now contains 150 acres, and 160 fallow deer. The *Ellesmere Canal*, one of Telford's great works, was considered, previously to the construction of railways, the grand engineering feat of the day. "It consists of a series of navigations proceeding from the Dee, in the Vale of Llangollen. One branch passes northward, near the towns of Ellesmere, Whitchurch, Nantwich, and the city of Chester, to Ellesmere Port on the Mersey; another in a south-easterly direction, through the middle of Shropshire towards Shrewsbury on the Severn; and a third, in a south-westerly direction by the town of Oswestry, to the Montgomeryshire Canal, near Llanymynach; its whole extent, including the Chester Canal, incorporated with it, being about 112 miles. So great was the favour shown to the scheme at the first meeting held in 1790, that applications were made for four times the disposable number of shares."—*Smiles.*

Distances.—Shrewsbury, by road, 16 m.; Overton, 4.

About 4 m. S. of Ellesmere is *Kenwick*, "a large and important park very conspicuously marked in Saxton's Maps of 1577. This appears to have belonged to Hagmond Abbey, but I have found no mention of the park till the year 1604, when William Penrhyn, writing on the 27th Jan. to Hugh Nanney, observes: 'Sr. Jevan Lloid spent at Kenwik parke fortye markes in takynge of six young Rascalls.'"—*Shirley.* Rascal deer were lean animals fit neither to hunt nor kill.

10 m. *Welchhampton Stat.*

The line enters Flintshire near

11¼ m. *Bettisfield Stat.* A little to the N. is *Bettisfield Park*, an ancient house, the seat of the Right Hon. Baron Hanmer, containing a considerable library and many family portraits and pictures. Close by the house is one of the two divisions of the watershed that occur in Flintshire, the water flowing southward to the Severn, but N.E. and westward to the Dee. The line here, in fact, traverses a small portion of Flint. A little to the N. of Bettisfield is *Gredington*, the seat of Lord Kenyon, containing a library collected by the distinguished Chief Justice, founder of that family, and portraits of himself and of his contemporary, Lord Thurlow; and to the N. of this again is the village of *Hanmer*, mentioned by Camden in his 'Britannia.' The *ch.* is of Tudor architecture, commenced to be rebuilt in the reign of Henry VII., after the destruction of the old one in the York and Lancaster wars. It was restored by Lord

Hanmer at his own cost, and also endowed with the stipend of a minister. It contains some painted windows of modern glass by *Clayton* and *Bell*, a magnificent carved oak ceiling, and various monuments of the Kenyon and Hanmer families, one of whom was Sir Thomas Hanmer, Speaker of the House of Commons in the 18th centy. It is probable that Owain Glyndwr was married in this place, though in the ch. that was afterwards burnt. His wife was Margaret, daughter of Sir David Hanmer, Knt., one of the judges in the King's Bench in the reign of Richard II., resident here in his day, and ancestor of the present owner. In front of the ch. towards the S., extends one of the Meres which give so much beauty to this part of the county.

The rly. now passes through *Fenn's Moss*, a large tract of peaty moorland, grown up on the site of one of the original woods cut down by King Edward I. to clear the country at the settlement of Wales. There is a certain sombre beauty in this tract of peat, the dark brown purplish hues of which contrast curiously with the light green foliage and silver stems of numerous small birch-trees, which enliven it in the spring and summer. A considerable establishment for the manufacture of peat-charcoal exists upon it. Some was sent hence to the English camp in the Crimea. At the further side of the Mere is

15 m. *Fenn's Bank Stat.*

17 m. the line crosses the border to

8 m. WHITCHURCH JUNC. (Rte. 12).

ROUTE 12.

FROM SHREWSBURY TO NANTWICH, BY WEM AND WHITCHURCH.

This is an important line in the through route between South Wales and the North. It very soon parts company with the Great Western Rly. and turns to the rt., running tolerably due N. for some distance.

3 m., pretty close to the line on l., is *Battlefield Ch.* (Rte. 8), and 4½ m. is *Hadnall Stat.* In the ch. (to rt.) is a monument to the first Lord Hill, the Commander-in-Chief of the British forces and the hero of Corunna, Talavera, Waterloo, and many other Peninsular battles. Near the stat. is *Hardwicke Grange*, a seat of Lord Hill; and 2½ m. to the E. is the Norm. *ch.* of *Shawbury*, on the river Roden. The S. door is circular-headed, and has a series of square depressions on the under surface of the arch. There is a fine Saxon font, barrel-shaped, with five rows of mouldings. Shawbury Park was the seat of Giles de Erdington, who had licence from Henry III. to make a saltory or deer-leap in it. 1 m. to the N. again is *Moreton Corbet*, an old ruined, castellated mansion, which acquired its second name, as the possession of the Corbet family, to distinguish it from another place called Moreton Turet. The house was begun on a very large scale by Sir Richard Corbet in 1606, and proceeded with by his brother, who admired the Puritans, and gave great protection to them in their hour of need. But the laws becoming very strict against them, he could no

longer afford them shelter, which so roused the anger of one of them, that he gave vent to a prophecy that Moreton Corbet should never be finished, but should always remain a ruin. This has been verified since 1644, when the castle was garrisoned for the Parliament, and sustained great damage. The *ch.* is interesting, and contains an hagioscope, and some monuments of recumbent knights. The tourist may rejoin the rly. at *Yorton Stat.*, 7 m., passing *Acton Reynald*, the beautiful seat of Sir V. Corbet, Bart., which lies very prettily on the slopes of *Grinshill*, a picturesque and conspicuous hill forming part of the Hawkstone range. At Clive, a village on the northern side, copper-mining has been carried on with some success. Close to Yorton is *Sansaw*, the residence of R. Gardiner, Esq., and half-way between Yorton and Baschurch Stat. (about 2½ m. l.) are the scanty remains of *Middle Castle*, built by the Lords le Strange in the reign of Edward III. It was once the residence of Humphry Kynaston, surnamed the Wild, who, when made an outlaw, betook himself for shelter to Nescliff Rock. The *ch.* contains a *brass* to one of the Pettons, 1564.

13 m. *Wem Stat.* The town is a pleasantly situated, though dull, little place, dependent almost entirely on the agricultural population around. (*Inn:* White Horse) (Pop. 7414.) The buildings are more modern than in most Shropshire towns, owing to a great fire in 1677, which destroyed nearly the whole of it, at a cost of 23,000*l*. Among the celebrities of Wem was Judge Jefferies, who became the possessor of some property here, and was raised to the peerage by the title of Baron Wem. Wem took an active part in the Civil War, declaring for the Parliament, and forming a sort of garrison town, from whence Gen. Mytton and his forces issued to ravage and destroy. In a skirmish between Lord Capel on the part of the Royalists and Sir William Brereton, the women distinguished themselves—

> "The women of Wem and a few musketeers
> Beat Lord Capel and all his cavaliers."

There is but little to see in the place. The *ch.* possesses no interest beyond a lofty spire. There is a free school, founded in the 17th centy. by Sir T. Adams, a native of the town and Lord Mayor of London in 1645, in which year his house was searched in expectation of finding Charles I. in it. He accompanied Gen. Monk to Breda, as Commissioner of the City of London, to congratulate Charles II. on his restoration. In 1660 he was created a Baronet. He had very high impressions as to prerogative, and was therefore called "Prerogative Mayor." He gave up his mansion to endow the school, and also founded an Arabic Professorship, at Cambridge, in 1669. Wem was also the birthplace of Wycherley, the dramatist, in 1640, a name still to be found in this district, and author of 'The Plaine Dealer;' and of John Ireland, author of 'Illustrations of Hogarth,' in 1786.

3 m. to the W. is *Loppington House* (T. Dicken, Esq.), through the grounds of which the river Roden runs.

An omnibus runs daily from Wem to 4½ m. Hawkstone *Inn* (very comfortable), at the entrance of the splendid domain of *Hawkstone*, the seat of Viscount Hill, which for extent, natural diversified beauty, and landscape gardening, surpasses everything in Shropshire. The house, which is partly of the time of Queen Anne, is under the northern slope of the Hawkstone Hills, commanding a very fine view, in which a lake about 2 m. long is conspicuous. The rooms best worth visiting are the library, the chapel, on the ceiling of which is a curious emblematical

painting of Time putting Error to flight by the revelation of Truth, and the museum, in which is one of the most extensive collection of birds in the kingdom. From the rocky and broken character of the ground, great scope has been given for tunnels, sudden surprises, waterfalls, and other pretty conceits. Amongst the attractions are *Red Castle*, a few ruined walls occupying a precipitous knoll, the menagerie, and the obelisk, which overlooks the greater portion of North Shropshire, and was erected in memory of Sir Rowland Hill, the first Protestant Lord Mayor of London. To say nothing of its legends, Redcastle (so called from the colour of its stone) was probably a fortified mound prior to Henry III.'s licence to Henry Lord Audley to build a castle there. It remained with the Audleys, one of whom was a hero of Poictiers, till after the reign of Henry VIII. A Rowland Hill of Hawkestone was imprisoned here for his loyalty, by the Parliamentarians in the Civil War; and Sir Rowland Hill bought all the demesnes in 3 portions in 1737–56. Amongst the more remarkable of the ruins are the so-called "Giant's Well," which with a connecting passage, and the adjacent tower to the height of 40 ft., are hewn out of the solid rock; a tower on the left of the southern entrance; indications of a fosse in supplement of the natural barriers of the position; and the keep, on the E. side of the rock. An imitation arch or gateway disfigures the general *tout ensemble*. About a mile to the S. is an earthwork known as Bury Walls. Of it Camden says, "Here is a spot of ground where a small city once stood, the very ruins of which are almost extinct; but the Roman coyns that are found there, with such bricks as they used in building, are evidence of its antiquity and founders. The people affirm it to have been very famous in King Arthur's days." The Bury Walls (the Burgh) enclose 20 acres with a triple entrenchment; and Roman remains and relics, bricks, earthenware, spurs, and incised stones, supposed to be "milliaria," attest Roman occupation. The park is 1200 acres in extent, and contains 500 black fallow deer and 30 Barbary deer. It is said to have been disparked about 1770 and restored in 1830.

Few families have given to the service of their country so many men of note as the family of Hill; for, in addition to the Commander-in-Chief, his brother, Sir Noel Hill (died 1832), rose to high rank in the army. Sir Richard Hill, an ancestor, and M.P. for Salop in 1733, was a famous controversialist, and his language was so scriptural and quaint that he was called the Scriptural Killigrew. His younger brother again, Rowland Hill, was the famous preacher, of whom there are so many pulpit anecdotes. If the visitor to Hawkstone does not wish to return to Wem, he can leave the park by the E. lodge and proceed to Hodnet Stat., 2 m., on the Market Drayton line (Rte. 7). An excellent account of Hawkestone and the Hills is given in Lord Teignmouth's 'Reminiscences of Past Years,' c. v. vol. i. (published by D. Douglas, Edinburgh, 1878).

Quitting Wem Stat., the line runs northward, leaving the villages of *Edstaston* (the ch. of which has a noble Norm. doorway) and *Whixall* to the l. and *Prees* to the rt. *Prees Ch.* stands on a knoll of Lias formation. Jas Fleetwood, Bishop of Worcester, was vicar here in 1638. The *Vicarage* (Ven. Archdeacon Allen). *Prees Hall* (Col. Hill). Near Prees is *Sandford* (T. H. Sandford, Esq.), the manor of which was granted to Thomas Sandford by William the Conqueror, to be held by the military tenure of supplying one horseman for the defence of Montgomery

Bridge. Fuller remarks about Nicholas Sandford, sheriff of Shropshire, temp. Richard II., "The ancient name is still extant, at the same place in this county, in a worshipful equipage. Wellfare a clear token thereof; for in the list of such as compounded for their reputed delinquency in our late civil wars, I find Francis Sandford, Esq., paying 459*l.* for his composition." Leland also says, "Sandford dwelleth at Sandforde, wher is only his place, and a parke three miles south from Whitechurch." An occasional view on l. is offered of the Peckforton and Broxton Hills in Cheshire.

19 m. WHITCHURCH JUNC. with the Ellesmere and Aberystwith line (Cambrian system). The town (Pop. 7910) (*Inns:* Swan, Victoria) is a thriving, busy country place, the metropolis of a considerable agricultural district, and possessing the usual institutions. There is little worth seeing but the *ch.* of *St. Alkmond*, which, although of heavy Romanesque architecture outside, and characteristic of the date of its restoration, after having fallen in Q. Anne's reign in 1711, was rebuilt in the Grecian style in 1722, and contains a fine and lofty pinnacled tower, an apse, some good stained glass, and interesting monuments to members of the Talbot family, Earls of Shrewsbury. Here lies John the first Earl, a Marshal of the Realm of France, killed at the battle of Bordeaux, 1453, "who was so renowned in France that no man in that kingdom dared to encounter him in single combat." His effigy, in a canopied tomb on the S. of the chancel, represents him in full armour, with the mantle of the Order of the Garter, and his feet resting on a hound or talbot. His bones were removed from France, and interred in the old ch. here. At the rebuilding, the urn containing his heart, embalmed, was discovered. There is another, to John Talbot, S.T.P., Rector of the parish and founder of the Grammar School (date 1550). These monuments have been recently restored; the former by the Countess Brownlow, a descendant; the latter by the present alumni of the school, in grateful memory of its founder.

Whitchurch retains none of those antiquities from which it derived its name of Album Monasterium or Blanc Minster; nor of its ancient castle, ruins of which were visible as late as 1760. The *Grammar School* has been restored from Elizabethan designs. Amongst the natives of the town were Dr. Bernard, the biographer of Abp. Usher, and Abraham Wheelock, a celebrated linguist.

Distances.—Malpas, 5½ m.; Combermere Abbey, 4½; Wrenbury, 5; Nantwich, 9; Shrewsbury, 19; Ellesmere, 11 m.

Passing on rt. two meres close to the rly., named Blake and Oss mere respectively, the traveller enters Cheshire. At Blakemere was once a park, mentioned by Leland. "From Whitechurch a mile and a half I cam by the pale of the large parke of Blackmer, longying to the Erle of Shrewsbiri, wherein is a very fair place or loge. The parke hath both red deere and falow. In the parke (as I herd say) be iii faire poles of the wich I saw by the pale the largest caullid Blakein, whereof the parke is named." There was another park at *Ightfield*, 3 or 4 m. S.E. of Whitchurch, where "Syr Richard Manoring, chefe of that name, dwellith, having a parke and plenty of woode about him." For remainder of route to Nantwich and Crewe, see CHESHIRE (Rte. 13).

ROUTE 13.

FROM WHITCHURCH TO STOCKPORT, BY NANTWICH, CREWE, AND ALDERLEY.

Soon after leaving WHITCHURCH JUNC. (Rte. 12), and passing the lakelets of Blakemere and Ossmere, both good localities for wild fowl, the rly. crosses the boundary between Shropshire and Cheshire, leaving on l. *Marbury Hall*, very prettily situated, overlooking the mere and village of the same name. To the rt. is Combermere Abbey, to visit which the traveller will have to retrace his steps from

5 m. *Wrenbury Stat.* (*Inn:* Salamanca, clean and quiet). The *ch.* has nave, side aisles, with clerestory, and chancel. It contains an oak roof, and some monuments by *Bacon* to the Cottons of Combermere, Mrs. Starkey of Wrenbury Hall, and to Mrs. Jennings, 1808.

Baddiley Hall, a little to the N., is a timber-and-plaster farmhouse, for many centuries the seat of the Malbons. It is about

2 m. to *Combermere Abbey*, the beautiful seat of Viscount Combermere, situated in the midst of very charming woods, and overlooking the mere of the same name. This is one of the most picturesque of the Cheshire meres, an irregular sheet of water, covering some 130 acres, and of great depth.

Leland mentions a circumstance respecting the subsidence of ground here, which almost looks like an attempt to explain the formation of the lake: "A mile from Combermere Abbey, in time of mind, sank a pease of a hill, having trees on hit, and after in that pitte sprang salt water, and the abbate ther began to make salt; but the men of the wichis componid with the abbay that ther should be no salt made. The pitte yet hath salte water, but much filthe is faullen into it." The "wich" mentioned here probably applies to the neighbouring town of Nantwich, the ch. of which belonged to the monastery of Combermere. Of this monastery, founded in the 12th centy. by Hugh de Malbanc for Cistercian monks, no trace is left, but the present Gothic mansion is built on the site, and the library is believed to have been the refectory. It contains some interesting wood-carving, and the heraldic history of the family of Cotton, emblazoned on the walls and ceiling. In the armoury is a collection of weapons and trophies brought from India by Sir Stapleton Cotton, 1st Viscount Combermere (died 1865). The family of Cotton has been settled here for several generations, one of its earliest members, George Cotton, having been described in King's 'Vale Royal' as "a man of singular accompt for wisdom, integrity, godlinesse, gentlenesse, facility, and all generous dispositions." At the Dissolution, the abbey was given to George Cotton, and the family received its first honours from Charles II., who created Sir Robert Cotton a baronet. The peerage was granted in 1826 to the late Viscount, Sir Stapleton Cotton, as a mark of acknowledgment for his services in India and the Peninsula. He was the friend and brother in arms of the Duke of Wellington, who frequently stayed here, and planted with his own hands an oak, which still thrives under his name.

Strangers are allowed access to the grounds of Combermere on appli-

cation to the agent; and fishing is permitted in the Mere on Tuesdays. Tickets, at 1*s.* a party, are to be obtained at the inn at Wrenbury; but three days' notice is required.

Immediately on leaving Wrenbury the line crosses the Weaver in a very early part of its course, and runs through a flat though pleasant dairy farming district—passing l. *Dorfold Hall*, the seat of Wilbraham Tollemache, Esq. The estate had been in the possession of the Wilbrahams since the time of Elizabeth, but it was sold to the Tomkinson family in 1754. The house, which is approached from the high road by an avenue, is an interesting Elizabethan brick building of bays and gables; the drawing-room possesses a fine carved ceiling and chimney-piece. In the Civil War Dorfold was besieged twice, once in 1643 by Lord Capel, who held possession for one night only, and a little later on by Lord Byron. On rt. is *Shewbridge Hall.*

9 m. NANTWICH JUNC. with the Great Western Rly. from Wellington and Wolverhampton (Rte. 7). The traveller is now on the borders of the land of the "wiches," that give to the county of Cheshire those special features and characteristics derived from the salt supplies which are so bountifully yielded by Nature from the Triassic or New Red sandstone strata. Drayton thus speaks of them:—

> The Nant Wyche and the North — whose either brynie well
> For store and sorts of salts, maketh Weever to excel."

The town of *Nantwich* (*Inns:* Lamb; Crown) (Pop. 53,750), although formerly it produced more salt than all the Cheshire springs put together, now yields not an ounce, the site of the last brine-pit being occupied by the Town-hall. In Camden's time salt was the principal support of the town. "Nantwich, the first that is visited by the Wever, is called by the Welsh Hellath Wen, that is, White-salt-wich, because the whitest salt is made here; by the Latins, Vicus Malbanus, probably from William called Malbedeng and Malbanc, who had it given him upon the Norman conquest. There is but one salt pit (they call it the Brine pit), distant about 14 ft. from the river. From this Brine pit they convey salt water by wooden troughs into the houses adjoining, where there stand ready little barrels fixed in the ground, which they fill with that water; and at the notice of a bell, they presently make a fire under their leads, whereof they have six in every house for boiling the water. These are attended by certain women called Wallers, who with little wooden rakes draw the salt out of the bottom of them, and put it in baskets, out of which the liquor runs, but the salt remains and settles."

The idea of sanctity attached by the Germans to *salt* springs obtained here. On Ascension Day the old inhabitants sang a hymn of thanksgiving for the blessing of the Brine. A very ancient pit, called the Old Brine, was in the last century decked with boughs, flowers, and garlands on this festival.

A few houses still bear the date of the 16th centy., but "The Lamb," which was a characteristic old timbered house, has been rebuilt of modern brick; and the stuccoed front of the Crown Hotel hides all the remnants of antiquity to be found in its panelled rooms. At the extremity of Hospital Street stands "Church's Mansion," a quaint timber-work edifice, said to have been a restoration in Q. Elizabeth's day. It has good oak-panelled rooms, and ceilings and cornices of plaster, and bears the legend:—"Richarde Churche and Margerite his wyfe, Mai IIII. Thomas Cleese made this work, Anno Dni. MCCCCCLXXVIII. In

the 18th year of our noble Queen Elezebeth."

In the square, at a house belonging to Mr. Lovatt, draper, are two or three finely panelled and ceiled rooms of much interest, though the date is not preserved.

Nantwich, although a good deal modernised and improved, still contains narrow streets and Elizabethan timber houses, which give it a particularly quaint and old-fashioned air. The principal object of interest is the *church*, a very fine red sandstone cruciform building of the 14th centy., with an octagonal embattled tower, nave, side aisles, transept, and chancel. The choir is vaulted with stone, and contains some stalls of carved oak, said to have been brought from Vale Royal Abbey; also a fine Perp. E. window. At the last restoration, such monuments as were preserved were relegated to the vestry, where are some to the Wilbrahams and the Maistersons. The altar-tomb, supposed to be Sir John Cradock, and a painting of an old woman in a ruff, praying, are gone. The ch. is again under the architect's hands.

In Hospital Street stood the Hospital of St. Nicholas, and there are still the almshouses founded by Sir Edmund Wright in 1638. At the end of the Welsh Row are others, founded by a Wilbraham, 1613; and in Beam Street, those erected by John Crewe, 1707. The Free School in the churchyard was the ancient hall of the Guild of Nantwich. The only fortress mentioned in Domesday as existing in this hundred was probably, according to Ormerod, built for the protection of the Earl of Mercia's mansion in the neighbouring village of Acton. It was this that induced the inhabitants to make a stand against the Roman army in its advance upon Chester. Of this castle of Wych Malbanke, there is not the slightest trace. Nantwich was the birthplace of Thomas Harrison, the regicide, John Gerarde, the herbalist (1545), and Geoffrey Whitney, an Elizabethan poet, and author of the 'Choice of Emblemes.'

Amongst the modern institutions are a middle-class grammar school, built and endowed by Mr. Wilbraham in 1858, and a townhall, opened in 1868. The annals of the town record its severe sufferings by fire, which has twice nearly consumed it —in 1458 and 1583, when the estimated damage was 30,000*l.*, and a collection was ordered by Q. Elizabeth; and also by plague, which in 1604 carried off more than 500 people. In 1642 Nantwich made a show of resistance against the Royal authority, when Lord Grandison was sent against it, and soon caused the defensive works to be pulled down. Two years later, the neighbourhood was occupied by Lord Byron for the King, against whom Sir Thomas Fairfax and Sir William Brereton advanced. The Irish troops, who formed the greater part of the garrison, underestimated the strength of the parliamentary forces. "This made them keep their posts too long; and when they found it necessary to draw off, a little river, which divided their forces, on a sudden thaw, so much swelled above its banks that the Lord Byron, with the greatest part of the horse and the foot, which lay on one side of the town, were severed from the rest, and compelled to march four or five miles before he could join with the others, before which time the other part, being charged by Sir Thomas Fairfax on the one side, and from the town on the other, were broken, and all the chief officers forced to retire to Acton Church, where they were caught as in a trap; and the horse, by reason of the deep ways with the sudden thaw, and the narrow lanes and great hedges, not being able to relieve them, were compelled to yield themselves prisoners to those,

whom they so much despised two hours before. There were taken, besides, all the chief and considerable officers of foot, some 1800 common soldiers, and all their cannons and carriages, the Lord Byron and his horse, and the rest of the foot, retiring to Chester." — *Clarendon.* The portrait of this Lord Byron, who is the poet's ancestor, is at Tabley. Byron is always quoting his ancestors who fought at Marston Moor, and this Sir John Byron married a sister of Sir P. Leicester's wife, and daughter of Lord Gerard. Her portrait (by Lely) is among the Hampton Court beauties.

Acton Ch., 1½ m. on the Chester road, has a nave and aisles, chancel, tower, and chapel, belonging to the Halls of Dorfold and Woodhey. In the interior is a monument to Sir Richard Wilbraham (habited in plate armour) and his wife Elizabeth; also one to Sir William Mainwaring of Peover, under a Gothic canopy, on which are heads of ecclesiastics. In the S. wall is a piscina.

In the neighbourhood of Nantwich are *Dorfold Hall* (Wilbraham Tollemache, Esq.), *Poole Hall* (W. H. Hornby, Esq.), *Rookery* (Baron Schroeder), *Reesheath Hall* (H. R. Tomkinson, Esq.), and *Shewbridge Hall* (W. Forster, Esq.).

Railways from Nantwich to Whitchurch, 9 m.; Shrewsbury, 28 m.; Crewe, 4 m.; Market Drayton, 12 m.; Wellington, 29 m.

Distances, to Middlewich, 10 m.; Northwich, 16 m.

11 m. *Wistaston* Stat. During the Reformation, a family named Minshull lived at Wistaston, one of whom, Elizabeth Minshull, became Milton's third wife.

The rly. joins the main line from London to the North at

13 m. CREWE JUNC. (*Hotel:* Crewe Arms, adjoining the station; comfortable and moderate). Crewe is one of those extraordinary instances of a town of completely modern growth, brought to life and fostered entirely by the railway system. "Within the memory of many it was an estate called 'Oak Farm,' bought by a Nantwich attorney for 35*l.* an acre, and subsequently sold by him, when the land was wanted for railway purposes, at the profitable rate of 500*l.* an acre. When Mr. Locke traced the line of the Grand Junction, it passed through Oak Farm, and by an Act of Parliament the proprietor was paid for all land encroached on and used. Fortune's frolic continued to enrich him. The people of Chester would have a short cut to London, and their line came out at Crewe exactly across Oak Farm, whilst the Manchester men, equally impatient of delay, took another short cut in another direction, and their line also came out at Oak Farm. The result every railway traveller northward must have seen, as there are now no less than six great lines radiating from it." Indeed, the very name of the station owes itself to railway brevity, for the proper name of the parish is Church Coppenhall, but it was felt that it would be such a serious loss of time for a porter to shout out this long word that Crewe, the name of Lord Crewe's domain adjoining, was substituted. The town itself, with its population of 17,810, is entirely made up of artisans and officials connected with the London and North-Western Rly., who possess here not only one of the largest junctions in the world, but an enormous establishment for making everything used on the railway. The interest of the visitor will altogether centre on the station and the railway works. To visit the latter, a letter had better be addressed to the Chief Superintendent the day before, explaining the object

of the visitor, who, if permission be granted, will be required to enter his name in a book, and will then be accompanied round the works by an official, who will explain as much as may be considered desirable. The *station* is now a very fine one, having been very much enlarged and almost rebuilt in 1867. The platform is half a mile in length, and contains subsidiary platforms for the branch lines to the Potteries and Shrewsbury. The refreshment and waiting-rooms are comfortable and convenient, and all the offices and arrangements for the traffic are as perfect as can be desired, and as are requisite for a station which, with passengers and goods, has 500 trains a day passing through it. From the main line between London and Carlisle are branches to Manchester, Chester for Holyhead, Derby and the Potteries, and Shrewsbury, so what with arrivals and departures there is very little repose indeed at Crewe station. The most striking and characteristic part of the day is from 12 to 2 P.M., during which time the fast Northern trains arrive, and are broken up into their several divisions, while the passengers dive into the refreshment rooms like rabbits into a warren.

The factory district of Crewe lies altogether to the N. of the station, and the visitor should be exceedingly careful to follow close to his guide's footsteps, and never by any chance to cross a rail without looking up and down it to notice whether any engine may be coming along. Should he get confused with the number of parallel rails, and be uncertain how far he can cross in safety, the wisest plan, as a rule, is to stand quiet, the chances otherwise being in favour of his getting knocked down and run over. The first object that attracts attention is the *Engine shed*, a vast multangular building containing 32 lines of rails, each line having room for 5 engines, so that, when full, 160 engines may repose after their labours.

Further on are the locomotive factories where the company manufacture every engine that they use; and some idea may be formed of the number always in progress, when it is known that for the last 20 years a new engine and tender have been turned out complete every week, at an average value of 2000*l.* each.

Here may be seen locomotives in every possible stage of progress, from detached chimneys, the skins (so to speak) and the ribs of boilers, and all the various parts and appliances scattered about, to the bran new and conscious-looking engine that, bright with paint and brass, is ready to commence its journey on the morrow. In another department is a hospital for decayed and damaged engines, in which skilful surgeons carry their art of conservative surgery to the utmost, and by putting in a patch here, and cutting out a piece there, the invalid is made fit for duty again, although in consideration of its accident, it is no longer appointed to express and rapid work, but is delegated to the quiet of some short country branch where speed is of less consequence, and where a little extra puffing and wheezing will pass unnoticed.

The whole of the establishment is accompanied by such a tremendous clang of hammers, particularly in the boiler department, that talking is quite out of the question. The main features of the engine factory are similar to those which are to be seen at every large establishment, and therefore need not be specially described; but there are some portions of the machinery which are particularly interesting, such as the planing and slotting machines, Whitworth's reversing machine, the steam hammer, and an ingenious tyre stretching machine, the two latter being the invention of Mr. Ramsbottom, the chief engineer who presides

over the whole factory. Round and about the shops are laid very narrow rails for the accommodation of three miniature engines, Pet, Tiney, and Topsy, which, although looking more adapted in size for a drawing-room ornament, are very useful in bringing the necessary supplies to the workmen. The *stores* are on a very large scale, and contain every conceivable thing that is in daily use throughout the establishment, including large jars of an oil of fabulous virtues, which is open to the public need, and is instantly applied to every cut, bruise, or other minor accident in the works, which may not be of sufficient importance to demand the doctor's immediate services.

The *Steel Works* are about 1 m. further on, and are perhaps the most interesting part of the whole. Steel ingots are made here by Bessemer's process, and it is one of the most beautiful sights in the world to see the blast put on to the huge converter. After a blow of 18 minutes, the spiegeleisen is added, and the whole fiery mass is then decanted out of the converter into the mould—a magnificent exhibition of fireworks and white heat. Attached to these works is an important arrangement of Siemens' gas-generating furnaces, in which the professional visitor will be much interested; and in the rolling-mill are some very clever reversing rollers.

Probably nothing gives the visitor such a good idea of the vast requirements of a large rly., as a visit to Crewe; the prodigious capital that is sunk there, the order and regularity with which every operation is conducted—and the skill and ingenuity with which machinery is brought to bear upon the very smallest portion of the details, are all things to be remembered and wondered at.

The *town*, although containing nothing but what is of yesterday's date, is well built and adapted for its class of residents. There are a handsome ch., schools, baths, and all the usual organisation of a place built from settled design and with one purpose.

The country round Crewe is very flat and uninteresting, except in the immediate neighbourhood of *Crewe Hall*, the seat of Lord Crewe, the entrance to which is no great distance from the stat.

A fine avenue leads to the house, which was destroyed by fire in 1866, although it has risen again from its ashes, under the hands of *Edward Barry*. The Crewes were settled here in the beginning of the 12th centy., but the elder branch of the family becoming extinct, the estate passed by marriage into the successive families of Praer and Foulshurst, the latter an esquire of Lord Audley, who was conspicuous for his gallantry at Poictiers. Sir Christopher Hatton then became possessor, and it afterwards reverted to the original owners in the person of Sir Randulph Crewe, Lord Chief Justice in the reign of James I. (1625-6). He, however, was dismissed from his office by Charles I. for giving his opinion against the legality of loans without the consent of Parliament. After his death the male line again failed; and the Offleys, who had acquired the estate by marriage, and in whose line it has since remained, took the name of Crewe. Sir Randulph died in 1645, aged 87, and was buried in the ch.-yd. of Barthomley Ch., Cheshire.

The original house was built by Inigo Jones, in the time of Sir Randulph Crewe, and possessed all the peculiarities of that age and architect. During the Civil War it underwent some damage by being garrisoned by the Parliamentary troops, but they were obliged to yield to Lord Byron, who, in his turn, was ejected and compelled to return to Nantwich.

The restoration has been well carried out according to the original design, from an oil-painting in Lord Crewe's possession, and it is now again, as it was before, one of the finest of our Jacobean or later Elizabethan mansions. It was built circ. 1636, half a century after Longleat, than which though smaller it has a more English feeling. The hall is of oak with a hammerbeam roof, and lighted by stained glass (*Clayton* and *Bell*) with heraldic devices of the Crewe family. The upper part of the hall is marked by the oriel and daïs, and at the lower end is an elaborate screen of carved oak. Connected with this screen is the buttery-hatch, communicating with the offices, and it is surmised, from openings in the upper part of the screen, that above this passage was the Minstrels' Gallery, commanding the hall. The Carved Parlour—a very interesting room—has an elaborate wall-framing with bas-reliefs, and a fine alabaster chimney-piece. The picture gallery mantelpiece is decorated with marble busts (by *Weekes*) of Bishop Crewe and Sir Randolph Crewe. The mantelpiece in the drawing-room has a bas-relief from the 'Tempest' by *Armstead*. The library has bas-reliefs of scenes from English poets and oak statuettes of Elizabethan celebrities. The whole of the N. side of the first floor is occupied by the usual long gallery, a charming room, well adapted for reception or for exercise. The chapel on the ground floor is decorated with stained glass by *Clayton* and *Bell*, and colouring by *Crace*. The arch at the E. end is of marble and alabaster, and the reredos is carved with heads of prophets by *Philip*. The architectural beauty as well as convenience of the staircase at Crewe is recognised by all architects. It is of highly-worked and carved oak—a newel staircase built round a central well-hole. It occupies little space from wall to wall, being but 24 ft. square, while the height of the story is but 20 ft. The grounds are charmingly laid out, and are ornamented by a considerable lake. They were modernised some years ago by the elder Nesfield.

In the village of *Haslington* (nearly 3 m. on the road to Sandbach) is the moated site of the old mansion of the Vernons, which was a parallelogram in shape. Their later residence is now a farmhouse, partly of brick and partly of timber. *Coppenhall Ch.*, of the date of Elizabeth, has its side aisles separated from the nave by wooden pillars. In Ormerod's time, "the floor was the bare clay, on which, for the convenience of kneeling, were placed circular lumps of wood chained to the seats."

From Crewe to Manchester the country becomes a little more diversified, as soon as the river Wheelock is crossed, near

4 m. SANDBACH JUNC. (Rte. 21), from whence the traveller can proceed to Northwich, the Salt Districts, and Mid-Cheshire generally. The little town of *Sandbach* (*Inn:* Wheatsheaf) (Pop. 14,219) is prettily situated on rather high ground, overlooking the Wheelock, and on the high road between the Potteries and the salt country. In 1651 it was remarkable for a skirmish between the townsmen and Lesley's horse, in their flight from the battle of Worcester. The attack took place in a space to the N.W. of the ch., still called the Scotch Commons. A curious account of this affair was given in the 'Mercurius Politicus' (No. 66), dated from Newcastle-under-Lyne, Sept. 6:—"They so managed the business that, when the Scots offered to fire, they ran into their houses; and, as soon as that party was past which had the pistols and powder, they fell upon the remainder of the troops, and continued pealing and billing them, during the passage of all their horse."

The Grammar School, which was

erected in 1849–50, is a splendid building on the Wheelock Road, with residence for the master, and an endowment of 200*l.* per annum. The scholars also pay a capitation fee of 10*s.* per quarter each.

The *church* is a fine old building with a tower, nave, chancel, side aisles, and 2 chapels; one of which belongs to the manor of Wheelock, and the other to Bradwall Hall. The nave is somewhat narrow in proportion to its height, and has a fine carved oak roof, dated 1661. The font (1667) is ornamented with acanthus-leaves, and has the following Greek inscription, which may be read both ways:—

NIΨON ANOMHMA MH MONAN OΨIN

In the interior are monuments to the family of Powys of Wheelock.

The old *Hall*, now an inn, is a large timber-and-plaster building, with bay windows. It was built in the 15th centy., restored in 1656. It occupies the site of the ancient residence of the Crewe family.

The chief interest of the town, however, is in its two *Crosses*, supposed to be of early Saxon date, and the equals of which, for size and beauty of sculpture, are only to be found in Ireland or Scotland. They are in the market-place, on a platform of 2 slabs, at each angle of which are stone posts, with carvings of rude figures. On the E. side of the Great Cross is (1) a circle containing 3 figures, to one of which the others appear to be paying obeisance. Above this (2) are 3 other figures, the centre one carrying an infant; on l. is a figure with a palm-branch, and a dove over its head; on rt. is a figure with a book in its hand. Above again (3) is our Saviour in a manger, and an angel hovering over him. The lower part of the W. side is filled with (1) dragons with curiously interlaced wings. To this succeeds (2) a mutilated winged figure, and above (3) a winged and sitting figure, supposed to denote the appearance of Gabriel to Zacharias. (4) The Saviour bearing the Cross. (5) The Saviour drawn by a figure holding a rope. The S. side is principally ornamented with foliage. The N. side had apparently 11 figures, supposed to be Apostles; one, a fish with cloven tongue, is supposed to be the Spirit.

The smaller cross is ornamented in a similar manner.

From the frequency of the representation of our Saviour, a tradition exists that the crosses were erected to commemorate the return of Penda from Northumberland, on his missionary errand through the country. Previous to their final re-erection here, through the instrumentality of Mr. Ormerod, the historian of Cheshire, they had undergone great mutations—having been successively moved by Sir John Crewe to Utkinton, afterwards to Tarporley, and then to Oulton Park.

A little to the S. of the town is *Abbeyfield*, the seat of E. Ashton, Esq., and property of R. Heath, Esq., M.P.; and beyond it is the village of *Wheelock*, where there are saltworks. The old residence of the Bradwall family is supposed to have occupied a moated spot between the town and the stat. Rather more than a mile S.W. of Sandbach is the ecclesiastical district of Elworth, with a pretty little Anglo-Gothic ch., dedicated to St. Peter. Sandbach Stat. is situated here, and a large village has grown up round it. About a mile N.E. of Sandbach is St. John's Ch., Sandbach Heath, a very handsome E. E. building, consisting of nave, chancel, transepts, and tower, surmounted by an octagonal spire. It was built in 1860–1, and was looked upon by the late Sir G. G. Scott as his chef-d'œuvre.

At *Hassall*, 1½ m. S.E of Wheelock, is the old moated residence of the

Hassall family, seated here in the 14th and 15th cents. *Betchton Hall*, between Sandbach and Harecastle, is also a timber-and-plaster farmhouse.

Rly. to Crewe, 4 m.; Stockport, 21; Middlewich, 5; Northwich, 11 m.

Distances. — Nantwich, 9½ m.; Congleton, 7½ m.

Leaving Sandbach Stat., the rly. passes (rt.) *Bradwall Hall* (G. W. Latham, Esq.), to 8 m. Church Hulme, or more generally

Holmes Chapel Stat., a village on l., prettily placed near the banks of the Dane. The *ch.* has a tower, nave, chancel, side aisles, and private chapels. The arches that separate the nave and aisles rest on wooden pillars. The N. aisle contains a fragment of shrine-work.

Several places in the neighbourhood show traces of antiquity. *Cotton Hall*, 1 m. l. on road to Middlewich, is an old timber-and-plaster building, now a farmhouse. *Twemlow Hall* (Mrs. Humble) to the N., the old seat of the Booths, is an old gabled house, with a moat; 1½ m. further N., between Holmes Chapel and Chelford, is *Blackden Hall*, a half-timbered gabled house, the residence of the Kinseys, containing some interesting family portraits. *Cranage*, 1½ m. N.W., is on the other side of the Dane, which was formerly crossed by a bridge built by Sir John Nedham, a judge in the reign of Henry VI. *Cranage Hall* is the residence of Rev. J. R. Armitstead; as is also the *Hermitage*. Brereton, Swetenham, Davenport, and Somerford Halls are all on the line of the road to Congleton (Rte. 21).

The rly. now crosses the Dane at a considerable height, passes rt. *Twemlow Hall*, and further on, *Jodrell Hall* (L. Reiss, Esq.); l. *Blackden Hall*; rt. *Withington Hall* (J. Baskervyle Glegg, Esq.), and *Astle Hall* (G. Dixon, Esq.).

13½ m. *Chelford Stat.* *Withington Hall*, 2 m. to the S., is approached by a fine avenue of timber, and the park is otherwise charmingly wooded. The old Hall has been superseded by the present mansion, the family of Baskervyle having been settled here since the reign of Henry III., and taken the additional name of Glegg, on succeeding by marriage to the estates of that family in Gayton-in-Wirral.

2 m. E. of Chelford, on the Macclesfield road, is *Capesthorne*, the beautiful seat of W. B. Davenport, Esq., M.P., a younger branch of the families of the same name seated at Bramhall, and in Staffordshire. Davenport Hall (Rte. 21) is their original residence, Capesthorne not having come to them until 1748, when it was acquired in marriage with an heiress of John de Ward, in whose family it had been since Edward III.'s reign. Sir Humfrey Davenport was Chief Baron of the Exchequer in Charles I.'s time. One of the honours pertaining to the Davenports was the hereditary possession of the office of Magisterial Serjeants of the Hundred of Macclesfield, it being their duty to perambulate the forests of Macclesfield, Leek, and the Peak, and clear them of banditti. "There is now in the possession of the Capesthorne family a long roll, containing the names of the master robbers who were taken and beheaded during the tenures of Vivian, Roger, and Thomas De Davenport, and also of their companions, as well as of the fees paid to them in right of their serjeantcy. From this it appears that the fee for a master robber was 2 shillings and 1 salmon, and for his companions 12 pence each." —*Ormerod.*

Capesthorne Hall narrowly escaped the same fate as Crewe, the central tower having been gutted by fire in 1861.

The terrace and the conservatory are both particularly striking, the

latter having been built from the designs of the late *Sir J. Paxton*. It contains some remarkable golden-haired acacias. The well-timbered grounds, through which the road from Stockport to Congleton runs, are ornamented with a fine sheet of water called *Reedsmere*, forming a floating island about 1½ acre in size, which, in strong winds, is blown about here and there. *Aspidium Thelypteris* is found on Reedsmere. A country legend accounts for the floating island by a story, that a certain knight was jealous of his lady-love, and vowed not to look upon her face until the island moved on the face of the mere. But he fell sick and was nigh to death, when he was nursed back to health by the lady, to reward whose constancy a tremendous hurricane tore the island up by the roots.

To the N. of Capesthorne, separated by the high road between Knutsford and Macclesfield, is *Alderley Park*, the seat of Lord Stanley of Alderley. The history of the family of Stanley, as represented by the houses of Derby and Stanley of Alderley, is closely identified in many points with the history of England, although the creation of this particular peerage is modern, dating only from 1839, when Sir John Stanley was made Lord Stanley of Alderley. Alderley estate appears to have come into this branch of the family in 1420, by marriage, and, though it became forfeited to the Crown, was purchased again by the first baronet in the 17th centy. The park (not open to visitors) has some magnificent beech-trees, and, like most Cheshire parks, has a large lake, known as Radnor Mere. The gardens are noted for their mulberry-trees. This picturesque district is quite a nest of pleasant residences; for, in addition to Alderley and Capesthorne, there is *Birtles Hall* (J. Hibbert, Esq.), closely adjoining Alderley; *Henbury Hall* (Mrs. Marsland), and, a little further S., *Thorneycroft Hall* (Rev. J. Thorneycroft). The visitor cannot have a prettier walk than from Chelford to Capesthorne, — crossing the high road to Birtles Hall and ivy-covered ch.; and then to Alderley Stat., passing along the southern side of Alderley Edge.

16¼ m. *Alderley Stat.* (*Hotel:* Queen's; fair, posting good). The *ch.* (restored in 1855) contains a fine monument of Caen stone by *Westmacott* to the first Lord Stanley of Alderley, and to Dr. Stanley, Bishop of Norwich. The proximity of this charming neighbourhood to the manufacturing districts of Stockport and Manchester has made it not only a favourite locality for a day's "outing," but also for residential purposes; and a number of handsome villas have been erected near the station of late years. The great attraction of the place is *Alderley Edge*, "a steep and beautifully curving cliff, of great elevation (650 ft.), and some 2 miles in length (reckoning to the out-of-sight portion that overlooks Bollington), with here and there great slants of green, rough, and projecting rocks, and innumerable fir-trees, glorious oaks and bushes, with paths traversing the whole, and introducing us to deep and sequestered glades that in autumn are covered with ferns."—*L. Grindon*. The woods at Alderley Edge are thrown open every Monday and Saturday; there is in them, at the foot of a rock, a dropping well, called the "Holy Well."

From its somewhat isolated position, the views over the great Cheshire plain are exceedingly fine, embracing on the N. the downs of Bowdon, the woods of Dunham, the chimneys of Stockport, and the hills that border the valley of the Goyt. On the E. is Macclesfield, and the woods of Lyme, backed up by the blue ranges of Derbyshire. To the S. is Mow Cop and the salt country, and west-

ward are Bucklow Hill, Delamere Forest, Beeston Rock and Castle, and the bold escarpment of Frodsham, while the foreground is beautifully filled in with church, hill, and hamlet—a true picture of English country scenery. The prettiest way to the top of the Beacon (which was erected in 1799, for the purposes of signalling in case of foreign invasion) is to take the Congleton road for a short distance, and turn up by a lane to the l., emerging on the Edge near the "Wizard" *Inn*, a small roadside hostelry on the Macclesfield road. It owes its name to a country legend that a farmer, riding to Macclesfield to sell his horse, was compelled by a wizard, who lived on the Edge, to bring it back and stall it with a number of others in the interior of the hill.

Alderley Edge is, however, economically valuable as well as picturesque—for, situated in the angle between the Macclesfield road and the lane just mentioned are *Copper Mines*, which by an improved process of extraction have been made productive, although they had previously lain idle and unremunerative. The mines, which have been worked for a considerable distance into the interior, are situated geologically in the Lower Keuper Sandstones of the New Red or Triassic formation. A section shows as follows:—

Red marl Waterstones Freestones Copper-bearing sandstones Conglomerate	Lower Keuper sandstones, 500 feet.
Upper Red and mottled sandstones...Bunter.	

The process by which the ore is extracted is to reduce it to powder, then treat it with hydrochloric acid and precipitate it with scrap iron. In 1866 these mines yielded 15,040 tons of ore, producing 189 tons of fine copper. Cobalt is also found here. The botanist as well as the geologist will find work to do on the Edge. *Schistostega pennata* grows close to a waterfall in the woods below the Wizard, and *Orthodontium gracile*, a very rare fern, near the Holywell rock.—*L. Grindon.* The visitor from Manchester can vary his walk by proceeding to *Prestbury Stat.* (Rte. 14) and returning by the Macclesfield line.

18½ m. *Wilmslow Stat.* A pretty village on the l. of the rly., which crosses the Bollin on a lofty viaduct. *Wilmslow Ch.* is interesting, and contains portions of the date of the 12th centy. The pedestrian may enjoy a pleasant walk of 5½ miles from Wilmslow to *Mobberley Stat.* (Rte. 20) over *Lindow Common*, the southern side of which is marked by a row of 29 lime-trees. *Lycopodium inundatum* grows here; and lower down the river, at Cotterill Clough, *Hordeum sylvaticum* and *Daphne laureola.*

20 m. *Handforth Stat.* This is another favourite Cheshire rendezvous for holiday-makers, the attractions to whom are the walk to and the grounds of *Norcliffe Hall*, 2½ m. to the l. (H. R. Gregg, Esq.), which are not only beautifully laid out, but are exceedingly well situated on the banks of the Bollin, near its confluence with the little river Dean. There is a neat country *Inn* (the Old Ship) at *Styal*, 1½ m. from Handforth.

22½ m. CHEADLE HULME JUNC. with the Macclesfield and Congleton line, the direct route between Manchester and the Potteries. From hence it is nearly 1 m. on rt. to *Bramhall*, till very recently the ancient and interesting seat of Col. Davenport, the head of the Davenport family, the younger branch of which is seated at Capesthorne (p. 94). It is more conveniently visited from Bramhall Stat. Rte. 14), although there is a charming walk to it from Cheadle by following the course of the Bramhall brook from Lady Bridge, a little beyond the station.

The traveller soon begins to perceive that he is leaving the more sequestered and country districts of Cheshire, and approaching those of the manufactures. On rt. the main line is joined by the Whaley Bridge and Buxton branch (Rte. 15), and a short tunnel is traversed to

25 m. STOCKPORT JUNC. (Rte. 18), the centre of a network of railways which radiate to Crewe, Macclesfield, Buxton, Manchester, and Ashton-under-Lyne. At a lower level the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire line from Godley Junc. passes through the town *en route* for Lymm, Warrington, and Liverpool. *Stockport* (Pop. 97,686) (*Hotels:* George, nearest the station, a homely commercial inn; Buckley Arms) is so beautifully situated on the steep banks of the Mersey that not all the dirt of a large and populous manufacturing town, or the smoke that is so continuously poured out from the tall factory chimneys, can entirely spoil it. The *Mersey* here divides Cheshire and Lancashire, *apropos* of which Drayton, in speaking of Cheshire, calls the latter—

"Thy natural sister shee—and linkt unto thee so
That Lancashire along with Cheshire still doth goe."

The Mersey, which not many miles further bears on her bosom half the commerce of the world, is here but a narrow stream, although flowing in many places with considerable force. It is really the result of the confluence of the rivers Goyt and Tame, which unite their waters in the very centre of the town.

The deep ravine through which the river flows has necessitated the crossing of the railway to Manchester by an extraordinary lofty *Viaduct*, the view from which over the tiers of streets rising one above the other is exceedingly curious. It is 108 ft. in height, 1780 in length, and is supported by 22 semicircular arches, each of 63 ft. span. In addition to this monster bridge, the Mersey is crossed by three others, and the Tame by one. The old bridge over the former has a fine span of one arch, but it has been considerably surpassed by the Wellington Bridge, which has 11 arches.

Few towns can show a more ancient pedigree than Stockport, it having been a central point on the Roman road leading from Manchester (Mancunium) to Buxton (Aquis). It is said to have possessed a Norman castle, defended by Geoffrey de Constantine against Henry II., but it is singular that there is no mention of Stockport in Domesday. This castle afterwards became the property of the Despensers, and was held by the family of Stockport, or Stokeport, under them.

The Parliamentary troops held their quarters here for a time in 1645, and a century later it was visited by Prince Charles's army during its Derby campaign. An old custom which was in vogue here to a later date than usual was the cucking-stool, which was also in use at Chester as a punishment for bad brewers. The term *cucking-stool* is sometimes used interchangeably for *ducking-stool*, the resemblance of the names having apparently led to an idea that they meant the same thing. These stools were extensively used in the 16th and 17th centuries, and were a piece of machinery for dropping *scolds*, or *rascally brewers*, into muddy or foul water; hence, according to some, cucking-stool is, *i.q.* "*choking-stool.*"

The *church*, rebuilt in 1817, stands on the very highest part of the town, and is approached on all sides, as is the market-place, by very steep streets. It has a fine and prominent tower of red sandstone (Runcorn stone) with pinnacles and pierced battlements, nave with side aisles and chancel, and a beautiful Dec. E. window. The interior contains a piscina and 3 priests' stalls under

cinquefoil arches. Within the pillars supporting the stalls is the figure of R. De Vernon, Rector of Stockport in 1334, habited in his ecclesiastical robes. There is also a monument to Sir G. Warren of Poynton, by *Westmacott*. The precincts of the old rectory were invested with a peculiar court of jurisdiction held by the rectors.

The *Market-place* forms a covered area of considerable dimensions, and on a market or fair day the visitor will see much character to interest and amuse him.

In Underbank, which was the line of a Roman road to Buxton, is an old *timbered house*, now used as a bank, but supposed originally to have been the town residence of the Ardernes of Harden. The *Free School* was founded, in 1487, by the will of Sir Edmund Shae, or Shaw, brother of the Dr. Shaw, a native of Stockport, who preached at Paul's Cross respecting the illegitimacy of Edward IV.'s children.

Stockport contains a fair share of good modern buildings, amongst the most ambitious of which are the Commercial School and the *Teviotdale Stat.* of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway (Rte. 18). The *Vernon Park*, given by Lord Vernon, commands beautiful views over the Goyt and *Woodbank* (H. Marsland, Esq.). As may be seen at a glance, nearly all the population is employed either directly or indirectly in the cotton trade, and many of the factories are of very large size, such as Howard's Portwood mills, Marsland's, Sidebottom's, &c., but as the tourist will find the most important factories situated in Lancashire, it is needless to describe them minutely here. The *Reddish* mills, belonging to Messrs. Houldsworth and Co., half-way between Stockport and Manchester, are probably the most complete in England, and if the traveller can get an order to visit them, he will see the whole of the process on a very large scale. The early importance of Stockport commenced with the winding and throwing of silk; and it is said to have been the first place after Derby, where silk mills were erected on the Italian principle.

Rlys. to Manchester, 6 m.; Crewe, 25; Cheadle, 2; Altrincham, 9½; Lymm, 15½; Warrington, 21; Whaley Bridge, 17; Buxton, 26; Macclesfield, 12; Ashton-under-Lyne, 7½; Hyde, 5 m.

Distances.—Marple, 4½ m.; Bramhall, 2½ m.; Romily, 3 m.

ROUTE 14.

FROM CREWE TO STOCKPORT, BY HARECASTLE, CONGLETON, AND MACCLESFIELD.

This route takes the traveller through the most picturesque portion of Cheshire, viâ the North Staffordshire Rly. Quitting Crewe, it turns sharp to the l., and skirts the grounds of *Crewe Hall* (Rte. 13), of which a passing glimpse (the only one) is thus obtained.

4¾ m. *Radway Green Stat.* 1½ m. rt. is *Barthomley Ch.*, with nave, aisles, chancel, and tower. The door of the chancel is semicircular-headed with Norm. zigzag mouldings. In the ch. is a monumental slab to an ecclesiastic, probably Robert Fulleshurst, rector in 1475; also a mon. to Sir Robert Fulleshurst, with figures of armed men, and females under Gothic niches. Sir Robert was one of Lord Audley's

squires at the battle of Poictiers. In this ch. was buried Sir Randulph Crewe, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, 1625-6. During the Civil War, Barthomley Ch. was the scene of a very disgraceful massacre, committed by the Royalists on 20 of the inhabitants who fled hither for shelter.

6½ m. *Alsager Stat.*, beyond which on l. is *Lawton Ch.*, which has a semicircular doorway on the S. side, with early Norman moulding; close to it is the *Hall* (J. Lawton, Esq.). On rt. is *Linley Wood* (Mrs. Marsh-Caldwell), commanding a charming view of the Welsh mountains. To the S. of this is *Talk-o'-th'-Hill*, a well-known mining locality, and from this place to Silverdale and Newcastle-under-Lyme the whole district is full of collieries and iron-works.

9 m. HARECASTLE JUNC., from whence the Macclesfield and the Potteries lines diverge, almost at the boundary of Staffordshire and Cheshire. The traveller, if he has perforce to wait for a train at Harecastle, can pleasantly pass the time by inspecting the canal works at the tunnel, which in its day was considered the *chef-d'œuvre* of Brindley, the great Staffordshire engineer. The *Grand Trunk Canal*, which connects the Trent and the Mersey, and in fact is the great waterway for all the English Midland Counties, was unquestionably one of the most important works ever executed, and had an astonishing effect in civilising the rough manners of the Pottery folks, and in opening up intercourse with the rest of the world. "The Harecastle tunnel, which is 2880 yards long, was constructed only 9 ft. wide and 12 ft. high. The most extensive ridge of country to be penetrated was at Harecastle, involving by far the most difficult works in the whole undertaking. This ridge is but a continuation of the high ground forming the backbone of England. The flat country of Cheshire, which looks almost as level as a bowling-green when viewed from the high ground near New Chapel, seems to form a deep bay in the land, its innermost point being immediately under the village of Harecastle. That Brindley was correct in determining to form his tunnel at this point has since been confirmed by the survey of Telford, who there constructed his parallel tunnel for the same canal, and still more recently by the engineers of the North Staffordshire Rly., who have also formed their railway tunnel nearly parallel with the line of both canals."—*Smiles.* So great did the traffic become on the canal that there was one perpetual block at this tunnel, which from its low and narrow size could only be traversed by the laborious process of "legging," viz. by the propulsion of the boatmen's legs against the roof of the tunnel; and as bargees were then, as now, not of the most patient or refined habits, terrible rows took place. It was determined, therefore, to make another tunnel, which Telford did, of a size sufficiently large to enable horses to work the traffic. The scene at the mouth of the tunnel, with Kidsgrove ch. at the back, is exceedingly wild and picturesque; in fact the whole of this part of the district is old world and quaint, and must have been charming before the establishment of iron-works and collieries. Close to the ch. is *Clough Hall* (Mrs. Kinnersley).

The Rly. to Macclesfield keeps due N. to 11 m. *Mow Cop Stat.* Immediately on rt. is the long narrow ridge known as Mow Cop, or Mole Cop (Moel Coppe), which rises to the height of 1100 ft., and commands an extensive and beautiful view over the plains of Cheshire and the high grounds of North Stafford. The boundary between the two counties

is carried along its summit, which towards the N. is called *Congleton Edge*. Geologically it consists of millstone grit, and forms a sort of spur thrown out from the great central backbone of England. The beds are extensively quarried, the stone being of a pretty streaked appearance and very durable. Between Congleton Edge and the town is *Congleton Moss*, where the botanist will find *Pilularia globulifera*. An excursion from Mow Cop Stat. to the summit of the hill, and afterwards to Congleton, visiting the old halls and churches in the neighbourhood, will give employment for a long summer's day—for this out-of-the-way corner of Cheshire is singularly full of interest to the antiquary.

A little to the l., and between the Stat. and Church Lawton is the village of *Odd-Rode*, formerly celebrated "for its wood, its aerie for hawks, and its deer enclosures." *Rode Hall* (Randle Wilbraham, Esq.) has been the seat of the Wilbraham family for many generations.

Nearer to the stat. are the Halls of *Great Moreton* (G. H. Ackers, Esq.), and *Little Moreton*.

Great Moreton Hall was the seat of the family of that name, which terminated in the reign of Henry IV., with an heiress who married into the Norfolk family of Bellot. Lysons speaks of it as a fine timber-and-plaster building, with gables, of the early part of the 17th centy. An old cross, like the one at Lymm, stood in front of the house, but the former was removed in 1806, and the house has been modernised and adorned with a central tower.

Little Moreton, commonly known as the Old Hall, has always been in possession of the Moreton family from a very early date, and is even now one of the finest specimens of the old-fashioned Cheshire timbered hall in existence, though only three sides are remaining. It is surrounded by a moat, and approached by a bridge on the S. side, entering the court by a fine old gateway, above which are sleeping-rooms, and at the top a very curious gallery, 68 ft. by 12 ft. Its sides are formed of bay windows, and the roof is of oak, of square compartments filled with quatrefoils. Over the W. window is a figure of Fortune resting under a wheel, with the motto "Qui modo scandit corruet statim," and at the E. end is one with a globe, entitled "The Speare of Destiny, whose rule is knowledge." The dining-hall contains, over the mantelpiece, the arms of Elizabeth, upon which is founded a story that she once paid Moreton a visit, but there is no authority for this. Over the upper windows are the mottos:—

GOD IS AL IN AL THING
This windows whire made by William Moreton
in the Yeare of oure Lorde MDLIX
Richard Dale, Carpeder, made this window by
the Grac' of God.

The windows also contain the arms of Brereton and Moreton. The E. side, which is the oldest, contains the chapel, which is divided by a screen into two parts, of which the ante-chapel is the largest. Its whole length is only 30 ft., and the ceiling is very low. At the E. it is lighted by a painted window, and black-letter texts adorn the walls. On one of the window panes was formerly cut the following verse:—

"Men can noe more knowe weoman's mynde
by teares
Than by her shaddow judge what clothes
she weares."

The Old Hall is well worth a visit, though it is sad to see so noble an old mansion so neglected. The working folks who occupy it are obliging, but incapable of acting as custodians or cicerones.

"Within the moat, at the N.W. angle, is a circular mound, which probably once supported a tower of the earlier mansion—which, from this circumstance, we should infer was probably fortified—and at the

S.E. angle is another circular mound of much larger dimensions, situated outside the present moat, but apparently included originally within trenches communicating with it."—*Ormerod.*

The neighbouring manor of Rode was formerly divided between the family of that name and the Moretons, which often gave rise to differences as to precedency and other matters between the two houses. An arbitration made by William Brereton, in the reign of Henry VIII., provided for the settlement of their disputes by arranging that "whichever of the said gentlemen may dispend in lands by title of inheritance, 10 mark, or above, more than the other, he shall have the pre-eminence of sitting in the church and in going in procession, and with all other like cases in that behalf."

From Moreton Hall it is only 3 m. to Congleton.

14 m. CONGLETON JUNC., a mile from the town. Here the Stoke-upon-Trent line, viâ Biddulph, falls in. *Congleton*, called Cogleton in Domesday Book (*Inns:* Swan and Lion, an old timbered house, the great porch of which, having a room over it, rests on two stone pillars; a good commercial hotel, with good posting; Bull), Pop. 36,000 (Rte. 21), is a pleasant, thriving little town, situated on the Dane, and near the foot of Congleton Edge and the adjoining Cloud Hill. "Cloud End" is 1190 ft., Mow Cop 1091 ft. above the level of the sea. It boasts of considerable antiquity, having had charters granted it by Henry de Lacy, Henry VIII., and James I. The mayor and town clerk used to have the power of taking recognisance of debts and issuing executions thereon—a power conferred on them by the Statute of Acton Burnell. One of these mayors, in 1637, was John Bradshaw, President of the Court that tried Charles I., he having originally been apprenticed to an attorney in the town. Congleton was a great sufferer by the plague in the 17th century. The first silk mill was established here in 1752, by a Mr. John Clayton, of Stockport, and the trade has ever since taken root, although at one time the place was principally celebrated for the manufacture of gloves and tag leather laces, known as Congleton Points. There are still some old timbered houses to be seen, but the ancient chapel which formerly stood near the bridge has been superseded by a newer one. *St. Peter's Ch.* is very plain, but *St. James's* built in 1848, is a handsome ch. of trans. from E. Eng. to Dec. style. It contains a stained glass window by *Wailes*. There is a Masonic Hall and Lodge here also, and a Public Park of 25 acres, pleasantly situate on the river Dane. The *Town Hall* is a very handsome building from designs by *Godwin*.

The whole of the neighbourhood is replete with picturesque country and interesting churches and halls, and the visitor will find plenty of excursions by rail or on foot, such as to Astbury ch., 2 m.; Little Moreton Hall, 3½ m.; Biddulph Hall and gardens, 3 m. [Staffordshire]; Rudyard Reservoir, 6 m.; Mow Cop, 3 m. In the neighbourhood are *West House* (T. Pearson, Esq.) and *Daisy Bank* (E. Williamson, Esq.).

Rlys. to Stoke-upon-Trent, 14 m.; Crewe, 14 m.; Macclesfield, 8 m.

2 m. to the S. is *Astbury*, the mother ch. of Congleton, and one of the finest country *churches* in Cheshire. The parish was the seat of the Lathoms, of Astbury, descended from Robert de Lathom, the founder of Burscough Abbey in Edward II.'s time. The *ch.* has a nave, chancel, side aisles of equal length with the chancel, clerestory, a W. porch of the same height as the centre aisle of the nave, a S. porch, and a tower with a lofty spire

at the N.W. angle. Notice the gurgoyles all round the ch., which are exceedingly grotesque. The nave is separated from the aisles by five pointed arches on each side, springing from clustered pillars of Mow Cop millstone grit. There are two chapels at the end of the aisles. The one on the N. belongs to the Wilbrahams, proprietors of Odd-Rode, and is richly ornamented with painted glass. There are also a few fragments of the original stained glass in some of the aisle windows. The aisles are lighted by Pointed windows with quatrefoils. The other windows are Perp. The E. window is a handsome 7-light window with stained glass, in memory of the Rev. Offley Crewe, a former vicar. The chancel is separated from the nave by a fine carved oak screen, and there are also a rood-loft and some carved oak stalls. On the N. of the nave is a nearly obliterated fresco, the only one left of several that formerly adorned the walls. The roof, too, is of carved oak, decorated with foliage, and of the date 1701. The date of the ch. generally is the early part of the 17th centy. The monuments are very interesting; especially one—now at the east end of the N. aisle—a recumbent female figure, in voluminous robes, of Dame Mary Egerton of Oulton, d. 1599; and another, at E. end of S. aisle, a 14th-cent. effigy of a recumbent knight of the Cheshire family of Davenport of Davenport. The altar-tomb to Sir William Moreton, Recorder of London, 1763, is now levelled with the floor of the vestry, and the inscriptions to the Wilbrahams let into the floor, while those of the Bellots and Shakerleys are on the walls of the church. But the most curious effigies are in the ch.-yd., which contains 4 recumbent figures in red sandstone, much decayed. The one on the N. is an ecclesiastic, on the S. an armed knight, and the two middle ones are those of a knight and his lady, reposing under an arch with crocketted pinnacles. According to the inscription within the arch these last are, Randulph Brereton and his wife Ada, who was a daughter of Richard, Earl of Huntingdon. But the arms admit of dispute. See *N. and Q.* 5 S. xi. 12.

2 m. to the N. of Congleton is *Eaton Hall*, the seat of J. C. Antrobus, Esq., a modern Elizabethan building, commanding beautiful views of the Staffordshire hills.

Quitting Congleton Stat., there is a fine view, at the junction of the two railways, of Congleton Edge and *Cloud End*, a very striking feature in the landscape of this district.

15 m. l. *Buglawton Hall* (S. Pearson, Esq.) was the ancient seat of the Touchets, of whom Sir John Touchet, in the reign of Edward III., was a distinguished warrior at the siege of Rheims. He was killed in the engagement with the Spanish fleet at Rochelle. A little further on is *Crossley*, a farmhouse which gave a name to the family of Crossleigh as far back as King John.

The Dane is here crossed by a fine viaduct of brick, and a JUNCTION soon formed with the Leek and Uttoxeter Branch at NORTHRODE. [From this point the border separating Cheshire and Staffordshire, which has kept pretty close to the line all the way from Harecastle, now trends to the rt., extending to within 3 or 4 m. of Buxton. *Axe Edge* is really the eastern boundary, and the two rivers Dane and Goyt, which rise within a few yards of each other, but which flow respectively N. and S., embrace in their course, the one to Congleton, the other to New Mills, a very large extent of country utterly out of the world, unvisited and almost unknown except by the scattered dwellers on its moorlands and in its cloughs. Although containing no one object worthy of pilgrimage, the whole district is nevertheless exceedingly wild, picturesque, and singular, and the

pedestrian who is anxious to exchange beaten tracks and civilised life for moorland paths and rough country character, will be amply repaid. The district may be pretty well explored in a walk from North Rode Stat. to Buxton (between 15 and 16 m.), returning from Buxton to Macclesfield by the "Cat and Fiddle," and by this means the visitor will obtain the scenery and characteristics of N. and S.

½ m. from the stat. the road falls into the high-road between Congleton and Buxton, which again is crossed by the Macclesfield and Leek road, Cloud End being a conspicuous feature in the S. 1½ m. the road skirts the N. side of *Bosley Reservoir*, and takes to the hills, descending occasionally steep little valleys locally known as "cloughs." Leaving the eminence of *Bosley Minn* to the rt., a short cut comes in from Macclesfield at Clulow Cross. To the rt., 1½ m., is *Wincle*, a village so retired that it is recorded in Bishop Gastrell's notes that the inhabitants paid what they pleased for preaching, "when there is any, but there has been none for half a year past, 1717." The monks of Combermere Abbey had a grange here. Further on (l.) is *Shutling's Low*, one of the principal hills of the district, with characteristic conical summit. It is composed of millstone grit, although the limestone crops out beneath, and it is the centre of a number of anticlinal lines which have caused great disturbance to the strata in the neighbourhood. At Hallgreaves gate take the road to the l. and commence the ascent of the moors that form the western slopes of *Axe Edge*, over which the traveller must pass on his way to Buxton. Axe Edge (1750 ft.) is one of the highest hills in Derbyshire (although the boundary-line passes close on its western side), and is still in its primitive condition of heather, moss, and bilberry, affording a good cover for the grouse.

The view from the summit is very remarkable, and embraces a large extent of the high table districts of Derbyshire and Cheshire, in the direction of Macclesfield. Four rivers have their fountain-heads in Axe Edge, viz. the Dove and the Wye, flowing eastward, and the Dane and Goyt, towards the Irish Sea. The northern extremity of the Edge is called Ladman's Low, and round it the road winds sharply and steeply to

14 m. *Buxton* (*Hotels:* Railway, Royal, St. Ann's, &c.)—*Handbook for Derbyshire.*

From Buxton the return to Macclesfield is close upon 12 m. Retrace the road over Axe Edge, and on the W. side of it take the road to rt., overlooking *Goyt's Clough*, the wild and picturesque dell through which the infant Goyt flows—

"From hence he getteth Goyte down from his Peakish springe"—

to 5 m. the *Cat and Fiddle*, a well-known moorland inn, which has afforded welcome shelter to many a weather-beaten pedestrian. From thence the road winds round the Tors and over the high grounds of the Macclesfield Forest, that wild bit of country over which, in early days, the Davenport family had jurisdiction as forester magistrates, whose duty it was to scour the district at intervals, and capture and then execute the banditti who infested it (Rte. 13).

In later times, the district was inhabited by a different sort of robbers, who depended for their livelihood a good deal upon the peculiar trade of Macclesfield. Dr. Aiken thus relates:—"In the wild country between Buxton, Leek, and Macclesfield, lived a set of pedestrian chapmen, who hawked about buttons from Macclesfield, ribbons made at Leek, and handkerchiefs with small wares

from Manchester. These pedlars were known on the roads they travelled by the appellation of Flashmen, and frequented farmhouses and fairs, having a sort of slang or cant dialect. At first they paid ready-money for their goods till they acquired credit, which they were sure to extend till there was no more to be had, when they dropped their connexions without paying, and found new ones. They long went on thus, enclosing the common where they dwelt, for a trifling payment, and building cottages, till they began to have farms, which they improved from the gains of their credit, without troubling themselves about payment, since no bailiff for a long time attempted to serve a writ there. At length, a resolute officer, a native of the district, ventured to arrest several of them, when, their credit being destroyed, they changed the wandering life of pedlars for the settled care of their farms; but, as these were held by no leases, they were left at the mercy of the lords of the soil, the Harpur family, who made them pay for their impositions on others. Another set of pedestrians was called Broken Cross Gang, from a place of that name between Macclesfield and Congleton. These associated with Flashmen at fairs, playing with thimbles and buttons, like jugglers with cups and balls, and enticing the people to lose their money by gambling; but they at length took to the kindred trades of robbing and picking pockets, till at last the gang was broken up by the hands of justice." When the pedestrian reaches a farmhouse, called the Lache, about 2½ m. from the Cat and Fiddle, he may plunge into the hollow under Shutling's Low, by a lane on the rt., and then ascend the hill to *Forest Chapel*. Follow the lane to Macclesfield past the reservoirs formed by the Bollin, and through the village of *Langley*. It is a most charming bit of country, full of varied and changing views. From the Lache to Macclesfield is about 6 m. *Sutton Hall* at St. James (2 m. from Macclesfield) was an old residence of the Earl of Fauconberg, whose daughter married the Duke of Norfolk, and subsequently the Earl of Lucan. It was formerly possessed by Sir Richard Sutton, Governor of the Inner Temple, who was knighted by Henry VIII. Licence to crenellate was previously given by Henry IV. to the abbots of St. Werburg, Chester. *Cophurst*, in this neighbourhood, was the ancient property of the Hollinsheads, whose male line terminsted in Ralph or Raphael) Holinshed, the chronicler.

3 m. to the N.W. of North Rode Stat. is *Gawsworth*, a charming little old-fashioned village, the *ch.* of which contains some remains of mural paintings. The Hall, which is equally old-fashioned, belongs to the Earl of Harrington. There is here one of the few old tilting-grounds remaining in England.

From North Rode, the rly., leaving Gawsworth to the l., traverses a dreary bog, known as *Dane's Moss*, which has been the locale of a series of experiments as to the feasibility of compressing peat, so as to make it practicable both in material and price, instead of coal.

22 m. *Macclesfield* (*Inn:* Macclesfield Arms) (Pop. 59,345), though not so prosperous as it was, in consequence of the long depressed state of the silk-trade, is nevertheless a place of great business and importance, and the number of factories that meet the eye sufficiently betokens the large population that inhabits it. Although of considerable size, it is rather a straggling and irregularly built town on the banks of the little river Bollin, and contains few good streets, many of them being very steep. It originally possessed three gates, viz., the Chester Gate,

Jordan Gate, and Wall Gate. It was first incorporated by charter, granted in 1261 by the Earl of Chester, son of Henry III., by which the burgesses were compelled to grind and bake at the King's mill and oven, paying a toll of one shilling each. That Macclesfield was a loyal town is shown by a curious document, preserved in the Corporation records, praying Henry VII. that the town might not lose its charter in consequence of not being able to make up the prescribed number of aldermen, from the heavy slaughter of their townsmen at Bosworth Field. During the Civil Wars, Macclesfield was besieged and taken by the Parliamentary army under Sir Wm. Brereton, who held the town in his turn against Sir Thomas Acton, who battered the spire of St. Michael's with his cannon. In 1745 the young Chevalier slept here when he passed through *en route* for Derby, with his army of 5000 men.

St. Michael's Church (Prestbury being the parish ch.) is a fine building, founded in 1278 by Edward I. and his Queen Eleanor, but modernised and spoilt in the middle of the last centy. It contains a stained glass E. window and some altar-tombs, one of which has recumbent figures of a knight and lady, in memory of Sir John Savage and his wife Catherine. Another is a knight in plate armour. There is also one of William Legh, 1630. The most interesting portion of the ch. is a chapel on the S. side belonging to the Leghs of Lyme. It contains a *brass*, with the following inscription;—

"Here lyeth the body of Perkin a Legh
That for King Richard the death did die;
Betray'd for righteousness;
And the bones of Sir Peers his sone,
That with King Henrie the fift did wonne
In Paris."

Adjoining the ch., but not communicating with it, is the Rivers Chapel, entered by a tower of three stages, with a fine old gateway ornamented with shields and armorial bearings. There are 5 monuments of alabaster, in a somewhat neglected state, in the Rivers Chapel; one a mutilated monument of a knight and lady in Elizabethan costume. Over it is an oriel window, decorated with the arms of England, the see of York, and the Savage family. Inside are the monuments of the latter family, conspicuous amongst which is the figure of Thomas Savage, Earl Rivers, in a voluminous robe and wig. Notice, also, a *brass*, with Elizabeth Legh and her six children seeking indulgence from the Pope, with the inscription, "The p'don for saying of v. paternost', v. aves, and a cred, is xxvi. thousand yeres and xxvi. days of pardon." This brass, in excellent preservation, bears the date of 1489. *Christ Church*, built in the last centy., contains some fine memorial windows to the founder, Mr. Roe, and others by *Wailes* and *Bell*; also a monument, by *Bacon*, to Mr. Roe, who built the first silk mill in Macclesfield. The organ is said to have been used by Handel, and the pulpit by John Wesley.

In Chester Gate is *Bate Hall*, now a modern public-house, but once a portion of the old residence of Lord Courtown.

Macclesfield contains some interesting modern buildings, viz., the *Roman Catholic Chapel*, in the Chester Road, a fine E. Eng. building, with some good sculpture and stained glass by *Wailes* and *Hardman*. The *Grammar School* is on high ground to the N. of the town, and forms a picturesque group of irregular E. Eng. outline. It was founded in 1502 by Sir J. Percival, Lord Mayor of London, and a native of Macclesfield, and re-endowed by Edward VI. The seal of the Grammar School is peculiar, representing a venerable pedagogue holding a book and a birch rod. Near it is the new *Infirmary*. In the Market-place is

a fine new Town-hall, built of Kerridge stone. The *Park*, on the Prestbury Road, is charmingly laid out with all the appliances for amusement, and has lovely views looking towards the hills. Adjoining it is the *Cemetery*, equally pretty and attractive. The *County Lunatic Asylum* is near this.

Macclesfield formerly held its reputation by the manufacture of its buttons, and in order that the trade should be protected to the utmost extent, an Act was passed, declaring it illegal to wear button-moulds covered with the same stuff as the garment. Like most of these monopolies, the Act was soon evaded by the use of metal and horn buttons; so that the Macclesfield traders took up the more legitimate manufacture of silk in all its various forms. At present there are 30 silk manufacturers and 34 silk throwsters in Macclesfield and the neighbourhood.

The town is well provided with churches and schools, and it is mentioned that at the visit of the Factory Commissioners, it was found that 96 per cent. of the children could read.

Archbishop Savage of York was a native of Macclesfield.

Excursions can be made to Alderley, 5 m.; Prestbury, 2; Bramhall, 9; Gawsworth, 3½; Congleton, 8; Buxton 12 m.

In the close neighbourhood of the town are *Park House*, *Hindsfield House* (J. Brocklehurst, Esq.), *Titherington House*, the *Fence* (T. Brocklehurst, Esq.), and *Upton Hall*.

[Should the traveller wish to join the Midland line, he can do so by a local committee's branch, which connects Macclesfield with Woodley Junc., passing through a very picturesque country, and affording the pedestrian his best approaches to Lyme Park and Marple Hall.

2½ m. *Bollington Stat.* is finely placed at the foot of a hill called Northern Nancy, on which there is a look-out summer-house. There are several cotton mills in the village. 4 m. to the E., in the mountain district, is the little moorland village of *Jenkin Chapel* and *Saltersford Hall*, now a farmhouse. It still gives the title of Baron Saltersford to the Earl of Courtown.

1 m. to the N. is *Pott Shrigley Hall* (Rev. Dr. Lowther), formerly the seat of the Downes, one of the eight subordinate Foresters of Macclesfield Forest. Shrigley Chapel is a fine old Gothic building, and more like a collegiate chapel than a country church. The rly. then skirts the broken and varied scenery of *Lyme Park* (Rte. 15), has a small stat. at Poynton, and soon crosses the Buxton and Stockport (L.N.W.) Rly.

5½ m. *High Lane Stat.*, *Wybersleigh*, whence it is a four miles' walk to Lyme. Near this is supposed to have been the birthplace of John Bradshaw, the regicide, 1602, but more probably of his father or grandfather.

7½ m. *Rose Hill*, is the stat. for Marple, and the nearest point from which to reach Marple Hall (the seat of Mrs. Bradshaw Isherwood, described in Rte. 16, *q.v.*), which lies ½ a mile to the left, and the line soon runs parallel with the Midland Rly. from Buxton, which it joins at WOODLEY JUNC.]

Emerging from the tunnel at the N. end of Macclesfield, the rly. leaves Titherington on rt., and arrives at

24 m. *Prestbury Stat.* The *ch.* (the parish ch. of Macclesfield) is of different styles, from as early as 1220 to 1741. The parish records contain some curious extracts as to the collection of "Church-ley" or "cerage" money ("cerge" in Anglo-Norman meaning wax-candle). In 1736 payment was made to a man "for tearing round the ch. to frighten the jackdaws," and between 1709 and 1713, the churchwardens paid for the

killing of 81 foxes and 1964 hedgehogs. In the ch.-yard is an old Norman building used as a school, which Ormerod thinks the most curious in Cheshire. In Leigh Chapel a window contains armorial bearings of the family; and in the Worth Chapel an alabaster slab, with armoured knight, and a lady with hat and ruff. In the chancel wall are two inserted slabs, incised with figures and legends. One is to Warren of Poynton, 1558; the other to Leigh of Adlington, 1482.

Sir Richard Sutton, founder of Brasenose College, was born here in 1511. Prestbury is a delightfully old-fashioned village, with several quaint old cottages.

It is a charming walk of over 4 m. to Alderley Stat. (Rte. 13), by *Mottram St. Andrew's* Common. To the N. of it is *Mottram Hall* (Rev. H. Wright), and to the S. is *Hareshill* (W. T. Hibbert, Esq.), immediately under Alderley Edge. A good mountain walk through a wild country may be taken, from Bollington to to Whaley Bridge, viâ Ketteshulme.

26 m. *Adlington Stat.* On l. is *Adlington Hall* (C. R. B. Legh, Esq.), a fine old quadrangular house, of which a portion is still of timber and plaster, while the S. front is of brick, with wings, and a portion of Runcorn stone. The great hall dates from the time of Elizabeth.

Adlington was garrisoned on the side of the King in the Civil War; but the brave holders were obliged to yield after a fortnight's siege, obtaining fair terms of surrender for "a younger son of Mr. Legh, and 150 soldiers had all fair quarter and leave to depart, leaving 700 arms and 15 barrels of powder."—*Burghall's Diary.*

The manor of Adlington belonged to the family of De Corona, and descended to the Leghs through the Baguleys. But within the last century direct issue has more than once failed, and the estate has passed to other relations, who have taken the name of Legh.

27½ m. *Poynton Stat. Poynton Hall* is the seat of Lord Vernon, who obtained it by marriage with an heiress of the Warren family, in whose possession it had been for generations. The old Hall, erected in the reign of Edward VI. by Sir Edward Warren, was pulled down, and the present house erected by Sir George Warren in the 17th centy. The park is of great extent, and, from its undulating character, possesses fine views. The northern part of the property is bounded by the Buxton and Stockport Rly., which has a stat. at *Hazlegrove* (Rte. 15).

29½ m. *Bramhall Stat.* 1 m. to the N., placed on rising ground above two dells, one of which is the valley of the Bollin, is *Bramhall Hall*, till recently the unique mansion of the Davenport family, who have resided here since the days of Edward III. It is now sold to a building company, and divers of its treasures have only escaped the hammer by being bought in, and transported to other seats of the family. There is no finer specimen of the antique "black-and white" timber-and-plaster architecture in all the county, and probably not in England. It was once a quadrangle in form, but the W. side was taken down by a former owner. Over the entrance gate is seen the armorial crest of the Davenports, a felon's head, with a halter round his neck, in allusion to the prerogative of the family as Serjeant Foresters (see *Capesthorne*, Rte. 13). The principal object of interest in the interior of Bramhall is the *Great Hall*, wainscoted with oak, which contained the family arms carved over the mantelpiece, together with a number of heads in relief. These are gone, as also some suits of armour and relics of the Civil War.

A spiral oak staircase leads to the *Drawing-room*, also wainscoted. There are here a number of armorial coats and the arms of Queen Elizabeth, who is said to have presented the mantelpiece to the family. Above it is painted 'Vive la Reine.' The *Plaster room* contains a floor of that material (1599), not uncommon in Tudor houses; but, alas! only the tradition of a large piece of tapestry, worked by Dame Dorothy Davenport (17th centy.), and an elaborately carved cradle. The *Paradise room* retains its name without its tapestry. It was so called from its being adorned with some of Dame Dorothy's tapestry representing the history of the Fall. The inscription which was round the fringe may interest:—

"Feare God and sleepe in peace, that thou in Chryste mayeste reste, To passe from dayes of sinne and rayne with Him in blisse, where angels do remayne, And blesse and prayse His name with songs of joy and hapinese, And live with Him for ever. Therefore, O Lord, in thee is my full hope and trust, that thou wilt me defend from sin, the worlde and divile, who goeth about to catch poor sinners in their snare and bringe them to that place where greef and sorrowsare. So now I end my lynes and worke that hath beene longe to them that doe them reade, in hope they will be pleased by me,

DOROTHY DAVENPORT, 1636."

The *Dining-hall* is a fine oak room on the S. side, divided into 6 bays or compartments by massive timbers. It still retains the massive carved-oak sideboard. The *chapel* is lighted by a beautiful Gothic window, containing stained glass with armorial bearings. In the centre is a painting of the Crucifixion. The Commandments are inscribed in Black Letter, together with quotations from the Early Fathers. Notice the altar, which is a slab of polished mountain limestone filled with casts of fossils. During the Civil War, Bramhall suffered more than most of the Cheshire mansions, and Peter Davenport, the then owner, has left behind him a pathetic account of the robberies and losses that he sustained at the hands of both parties. Royalists and Republicans were equally bad; and what one spared, the other took. "On New Year's Day, 1643, Capt. Sankey (Parliamentary), with 2 or 3 troopers, came to Bramhall, and went into my stable and took out all my horses, above 20 in all, and afterwards searched my house for arms again, and took my fowling piece, stocking piece, and drum, with divers other things. Next day, after they were gone, came Prince Rupert his army, by whom I lost better than a hundred pounds in linen and other goods, besides the rifling and pulling to pieces of my house. By whom and my Lord George's army, I lost 8 horses, and they ate me threescore bushels of oats."

Notwithstanding these repeated losses, poor Peter Davenport was informed against for delinquency before the Committee for sequestration, and after having undergone the indignity of having an inventory made of his furniture, was obliged to appear before the Commissioners at Stockport, and pay a composition of 500*l.* "to bring my own peace and rather than suffer myself and my estate to fall into the hands of them of whose unjust proceedings I have already sufficient tryall."

1¾ m. beyond Bramhall Stat. the rly. joins the main line from Crewe to Manchester at CHEADLE HULME JUNC., and the traveller soon reaches Stockport (Rte. 13).

ROUTE 15.

FROM BUXTON TO STOCKPORT, BY WHALEY BRIDGE AND DISLEY.

The greater portion of this line is in Derbyshire, entering the county of Cheshire at *Whaley Bridge* Stat., a most picturesque village, in which the first signs of the manufacturing districts impart a pleasant and lifelike aspect to the natural wildness of the hills. It is situated on the steep banks of the Goyt, and is the terminus of the High Peak Rly. after its devious course over the moorlands of Derbyshire. On the opposite bank of the river is the *Roosdych*, evidently derived from the Roman "Rhedagua" which served the purpose of a race-course. "It is an artificially formed valley, averaging in width 40 paces, and 1300 paces in length. It is in a great measure cut out of the side of a hill, to a depth of from 10 to 30 ft., but where it is most so, it is enclosed on both sides with banks of earth."

It is a charming walk from Whaley Bridge up the river as far as Goyt Bridge, 4½ m., passing the ch. and wooded village of *Taxal*. Some curious documents are in existence respecting this portion of Macclesfield Forest, which was in the possession of the family of Downes, who held rather stringent rights. The last Reginald Downes boasted "that he could bring all Taxall to his court, to be kept in his *Compass* window, commonly called by the name of his bay window." He held his land by a blast of his horn on Midsummer Day and the payment of a peppercorn rent. The family had liberty to try, hang, and draw offenders, and a spot near Overton is still called the Gallows Yard, where this privilege was carried out. The *ch.* is a handsome 3-aisled building with chancel and transept, and contains a monument to Michael Heathcote, gentleman of the pantry to George II.

Erwood Hall (S. Grimshaw, Esq.).

As the rly. descends the Goyt, additions to the natural features of the district appear in the shape of gins and steam engines, denoting the arrival at the coal formation.

A pretty valley, sprinkled with trees, and enlivened by the canal and the river flowing below, brings us to

2¼ m. *New Mills Stat.*, a straggling but thickly populated village on the Derbyshire bank. It is a modern place, but has a considerable trade in cotton spinning and calico printing. New Mills was originally called Bowden Middle Call, and is in reality a collection of hamlets grouped together for parochial purposes.

4 m. *Disley Stat.* (*Inn:* Ram's Head; cabs and flies may be had). The *ch.*, situated on the hill, is worth a visit. It is of the date of the 15th centy., and contains a fine illuminated ceiling of stars on a blue ground, and some stained glass. The E. window has scenes from the life of our Saviour, and was brought from Italy by one of the Leghs of Lyme. There is also a monument of Thos. Legh, the traveller, by Gatley, and a *brass* dated 1606. About ¾ m. from the station is the entrance to *Lyme Park* (W. G. Legh, Esq.), one of the most beautiful and picturesque demesnes in the whole county. Lyme has been in the possession of the Leghs for generations since the time of Richard II., when a grant of the lands of Lyme Handley was made to Sir Piers Legh, 3rd husband of Margaret, widow of Sir Thomas Danyers. Sir Piers, however, only lived two years afterwards, being beheaded at Chester in 1399 by the Duke of Lancaster. His son, Sir Peter Legh, was killed at Agincourt.

The mansion is a large quadrangular building of different dates, the north front being of the time of Henry VII. and Elizabeth. Over the entrance porch are the armorial bearings of the family, above which is a dial and open pediment, embracing a statue of Minerva. This, together with the somewhat heavy Italian casing, is the work of Giacomo Leoni in 1726. The hall is ornamented with the arms of Sir Perkin Legh, which he wore at the battle of Crecy, where he was knighted for his valour by Edward III. The staircase is very striking, and the long gallery curious. The great drawing-room is superb, and has been little altered since the age of Elizabeth, except the windows; but one oriel is perfect, and filled with stained glass containing the quarterings of the Leghs. It is wainscoted, and has a richly ornamented roof; below it, to the left of the entrance, is the chapel. There is some fine woodcarving by *Gibbons*. Another apartment, called the Stag Parlour, has a chimney-piece richly sculptured with armorial bearings, and 12 compartments below the cornice decorated with incidents in relief, of stag hunting. "In the front of the house is represented the custom, formerly observed here about Midsummer, of driving the deer round the park and collecting them in a body before the house, after which they were made to swim the water."—*Burke*. Part of a bedstead is shown as the very one on which the Black Prince slept during a visit to Lyme. Its very fine oak carving now serves with its projecting canopy of black wood for a chimney-piece over the billiard-room fireplace. Beds are also shown in which Charles I., James II., and Mary Queen of Scots slept, as well as a dagger of the first-named monarch, the bed-room of the second, and the bed-hangings of Queen Mary, which have been restored by the School of Art at South Kensington. There are portraits of Lord Ashburnham by *Vandyck*, of the Duke of Buckingham, of Charles I. with his hat, deathwarrant in hand, and of Lady Derby (La Tremouille) and her husband. There are also some antique marbles brought by the late Mr. Legh from Athens and Egypt, casts of a frieze which he sent from the former to the British Museum, and various bronzes from Pompeii. The tapestries of two state bedrooms are very curious; one representing natural history, another an anecdote of Scipio. The house is shown only in the absence of the family.

In the *Park*, a great portion of which is left in all the uncontrolled wildness of nature, are preserved some of the celebrated and rare *wild white cattle*, which have existed here for many centuries, and are said to be indigenous to the district. The untrodden thickets and bracken wastes are the favourite resort of the red deer. There is also a splendid avenue of limes, and some ancient oaks. On the top of a hill over 800 ft. high, rises a square tower, called "the Cage," probably an old hunting lodge, of which another example may be seen in the Herefordshire Golden Valley. Of the custom of assembling the red deer and driving them through the water "there is a large print by Vivares, after a painting by T. Smith, representing Lyme Park during the performance of the annual ceremony, with the great vale of Cheshire and Lancashire as far as the Rivington Hills in the distance; and in the foreground the great body of the deer passing through the pool, the last just entering it, and the old stags emerging on the opposite bank, two of them contending with their fore feet, the horns at that season being too tender to combat with; this act of 'driving the deer' like a herd of ordinary cattle is stated on a monument in Disley to have been first perfected by Joseph Watson, who

died in 1753, at the age of 104, having been park-keeper at Lyme more than 64 years. The custom, however, does not appear to have been peculiar to Lyme, as Dr. Whitaker observes in his account of Townley, the seat of a collateral line of Legh, in the county of Lancaster. It is said of this Joseph Watson that he once undertook, at the bidding of his master, to drive twelve brace of stags to Windsor Forest for a wager of 500 guineas, which he performed accordingly. This was in the reign of Queen Anne."—*Shirley.*

In the opinion of competent judges, Lyme Hall is in extent, timber, associations, and *tout ensemble*, the finest *old* place in Cheshire; and should be reached at some sacrifice of time and trouble.

Soon after quitting Disley, which has the advantage over High Lane, that it is nearer Lyme Hall, and is supplied with cabs for non-pedestrians, the rly. leaves *Poynton Park* (Lord Vernon) to the l. (Rte. 14), and stops at

7½ m. *Hazlegrove Stat.* This village, which is principally employed in silk weaving, formerly rejoiced in the euphonious name of Bullocksmithy. The *parish ch.* of *Norbury* is seen near the station.

1½ m. rt. is *Offerton*, now a farmhouse, but once the seat of the family of Wynnington.

10 m. STOCKPORT JUNC.

ROUTE 16.

FROM BUXTON TO MANCHESTER, BY NEW MILLS, HYDE, AND GUIDEBRIDGE.

This route is performed by the Midland Railway between Buxton and Woodley Junc., where it falls into the system of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Company. From Chapel-en-le-Frith it runs nearly parallel with the London and North-Western line (Rte. 15), although on the Derbyshire side of the Goyt, and it does not enter Cheshire till it reaches

19½ m. *Marple Stat.*, where the Goyt is crossed by a fine viaduct 135 feet in height. Here, too, the Peak Forest Canal is carried over an aqueduct of 3 arches, each of 60 ft. span, and 97 ft. high, but its level is soon reduced by a series of 13 locks. Marple is an exceedingly picturesque village, the churchyard commanding a fine view. It was anciently called Meerpol, probably from the expansion of the Goyt in the valley beneath. Adjoining it are some almshouses, built by Mrs. Bridge in 1853. 1½ m. to the N., between Marple and Chadkirk, is *Marple Hall*, the seat of Mrs. Bradshaw Isherwood, and one of the most beautiful Elizabethan houses in the county. For long, Marple was the property of the Vernons of the Peak and the builders of Haddon Hall, one of whose co-heiresses brought it by marriage into the Stanley family, the other marrying into that of Manners. In 1606 Sir E. Stanley conveyed the hall to the Bradshaws of Bradshaw Hall, Lancashire, a respectable yeoman family, in whose possession it

remained until the marriage of Mary Bradshaw into the Isherwoods. Here (or at Wybersley, near Disley) was born in 1602 John Bradshaw, the famous Regicide Judge who presided at the trial of Charles I. His will is preserved here, containing among other bequests one of 10*l.* to his kinsman, John Milton.

The house, of Elizabethan date, is built in the form of a letter E, after the complimentary fashion of that age. The entrance hall is low, with a massive oak roof, and is lighted by a long window with stained glass. The date 1666 is carved with the arms of the family over the fireplace. A bedroom is shown in which Judge Bradshaw is said to have been born, although other accounts assert that this event took place at Wybersley. At all events his bed is here, and is of beautiful carved oak, with the inscription, "Fear God and not gould. He that loves not mercy, of mercy shall miss. But he shall have mercy that merciful is." In the window, painted in old black letters on the ground glass, are the following lines, traditionally composed by the Judge in his younger days—

> "My brother Henry must heir the land,
> My brother Frank be at his command,
> Whilst I, poor Jack, will once do that
> Which all the world shall wonder at."

There is also some good tapestry, and the armour worn by the Judge. The library and drawing-room are both interesting and old-fashioned, have a charming view, in which woodland scenery blends happily with the river Goyt, a little to the left, and contain much carved oak furniture and many family portraits, some of which came from Harden Hall, near Stockport, the old residence of the Alvanley family, whilst, amongst others are Mary Bradshaw aforesaid, Desborough, and John Milton. The armour is very curious, and amongst other tokens of military Parliamentarian times, are the soldiers' old "Black Jacks" for drinking out of. Marple Hall is liberally shown, and is well worth a visit. "The extensive stables erected during the Commonwealth are supposed to have been built for the accommodation of the Roundheads by Mr. Henry Bradshaw, an adherent of Cromwell, and brother of the regicide."

Between Marple and 21½ m. *Romily Stat.*, the line crosses the Goyt once more, and there is a beautiful view on rt. at the junction of the *Etherow* with the former river. Near *Romily*, which is dependent for the most part on the manufacture of felt hats, is *Chadkirk*, the white little *ch.* of which is devoted to St. Chad, who in the 7th centy. was sent by St. Columb to Christianise the Lancashire district. Rochdale and Saddleworth chs. are both dedicated to him, and tradition asserts that St. Chad resided here. A well is still called after him, and a path along the hillside is named the Priest's Walk.

1½ m. to the rt. of Romily is *Compstall*, situated on the banks of the Etherow, a pretty village, containing printworks and a cotton factory, belonging to Messrs. Andrew. One of the water-wheels here is noted for its size, having a diameter of 17 yds. Compstall is also locally celebrated for its tea gardens, which attract many holiday folk.

The rly. now crosses the watershed that separates the valleys of the Tame and the Goyt, having on rt. the long ridge of *Werneth Low*, a conspicuous hill, which rises to the height of 821 ft.

22½ m. WOODLEY JUNC., where the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire branch for Stockport to the main line at Godley Junc. is given off, together with a line to Bollington and Macclesfield (Rte. 14). We now ascend the valley of the *Tame*, on the S. bank of which, about 1½ m. from Woodley, is *Harden Hall*, formerly the country

residence of the Ardernes, and subsequently of the Alvanleys. It is a three-storied building of Elizabethan date, a tall pile of grey stone, behind which is a turret containing a circular staircase, while at the sides are wings terminating in gables having long bay windows. The entrance gate is in the N. front. In the S. is a central gable with a coat of armorial bearings. The great hall is wainscoted, and lighted by mullioned and transomed windows, and was once decorated with paintings, now decayed. In addition to its natural defensive situation, Harden was protected by a moat, which is now dry.

23½ m. *Hyde Stat.* At the beginning of the present centy., a solitary chapel was the only representative of the populous township that now constitutes Hyde, and which has been created solely by the cotton trade. Hyde Hall contains a small portion of the old house in the interior.

The *ch.* is of late Perp. date and has a good stained glass E. window (a memorial of the Sidebotham family), by *Edmondson*. It is of 5 lights, divided into 10 spaces, occupied by subjects in our Saviour's life.

24½ m. HYDE JUNC. with the main line of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway. The traveller will perceive that he has left the picturesque and wooded vales of the river valleys for higher ground, which, if not so pretty as landscape, is equally characteristic of the country, and of its peculiar manufactures. Cotton factories are everywhere seen, and the open moorland occasionally allows views of distant towns like Ashton or Staleybridge.

Between Hyde Junc. and Guidebridge, on l., is *Dukinfield Hall*, an old half-timbered house, with gables and ridge posts. This was once the seat of the Dukinfield family, of whom was Col. Dukinfield, a very active officer on the Parliamentary side, who was one of the members of the Court that tried the Earl of Derby. In 1659, however, he had some differences with the Parliament, respecting a complaint made by the officers and soldiers of the inadequacy of the rewards given to them for suppressing the rebellion. The dispute was soon settled; but in the mean time the Speaker, in his attempt to pass through a crowd of the mal-contents, suffered the indignity of being stopped and sent back by Dukinfield. This gave rise to a doggrel rhyme, which became popular—

> "Duckenfield (steel was never so true
> And as wise as ever was Toby)
> Lay in the purlieu,
> The cockpit avenue,
> To hinder the Speaker's go by."

"Amidst the ruined walls of the old family chapel is the tomb of a Dukinfield, who gained his honours in the wars of the Crusaders. That dilapidated tomb of the Crusader and the ivy-covered walls of the venerable chapel are the oldest architectural memorials which can now be identified of English Congregationalism. In that chapel, encouraged by Col. Dukinfield, the Rev. Samuel Eaton gathered the first Congregational Ch. in the North of England."—*Halley.*

The village of *Dukinfield* lies about a mile to the N. of Hyde Junc., and forms almost a suburb of *Staleybridge* (*Inn:* Castle), a busy manufacturing town of some 20,000 population, through which the river Tame runs. It is consequently partly in Lancashire, although the largest portion is in Cheshire. There is not much to interest the tourist, the buildings being all modern, although it is probable that Staleybridge derives its name from the Staley or Stanley family, who intermarried with the Asshetons. *Eastwood House* is the seat of J. Cheetham, Esq. Staleybridge has direct communication with the S. by an independent rly. to Stockport, joining the main

line to Manchester at Heaton Norris, and crossing the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire line at

26½ m. GUIDEBRIDGE JUNC., where the rly. enters Lancashire.

3½ m. *Manchester* (Rte. 27).

ROUTE 17.

FROM STAFFORD TO WARRINGTON, BY CREWE.

(*London & North-Western Railway.*)

The London and North-Western Railway, the great main artery between London and Scotland, enters Cheshire soon after quitting *Madeley* Stat. (*Handbook for Staffordshire*), leaving on rt. the distant chimneys of the Madeley and Silverdale coal-pits, which mark the limits of the North Staffordshire coal-field.

Nearer at hand is the village of Betley and *Betley Hall* (G. Elliot, Esq.), between which and the rly. is Betley Mere, through which the county boundary runs. On l. (2 m.) is *Doddington Park*, possessing one of the largest lakes in the country next to Ellesmere.

23 m. (from Stafford) *Basford Stat.* 2 m. on l. are *Hough Hall* (R. G. Hill, Esq.) and *Wybunbury* village, the seat of the Bishop of Chester's old manor-house. The *ch.* is a fine E. E. building, with nave, aisles, and chancel. The interior contains a good stained E. window, and monuments to Sir Thomas Smith, of Hough, 1614, and his wife Anne, the latter under a canopied arch. In the parish are several old halls, which have sunk from their high estate into farm-houses, such as Checkley, Batherton, Stapeley, Basford, Shavington, &c.

25 m. CREWE JUNC. with the North Staffordshire, Great Western, Manchester, and Chester Railways (*Hotel:* Railway; good) (Rte. 13). The main line to Liverpool and the North is the middle of the three that bifurcate northwards, immediately on leaving the station.

30 m. *Minshull-Vernon Stat.*, 3 m. from Middlewich (Rte. 21). On the rt. the country is rather flat and uninteresting, but on the l. it is more varied and broken, the river *Weaver* and its tributaries running parallel with the rly. in a pretty valley. 3 m. l. is *Darnhall*. In the time of Edward I. the monks of Dore, in Herefordshire, were removed to a monastery which then occupied the site of the present modern mansion, which was subsequently a summer residence for the monks of Vale Royal. After the dissolution of the monasteries it was sold to Sir Richard Corbett, Justice of the Common Pleas. There was a curious prophecy made by Nixon, the prophet of Cheshire, to the effect that "Darnhall Park shall be hacked and hewn."

Erdeswick Hall was the old residence of Sampson Erdeswick, the antiquary, who married the heiress of the Staffords, and settled at Sandon, in Staffordshire.

Large volumes of smoke on the l. betoken the approach to one of the centres of manufacturing Cheshire—the salt works of *Winsford*, next to Northwich the most important seat of that trade in the county. 2 m. l. of *Winsford Stat.* is the village of *Over*, a small decayed town,

which still goes through the ceremony of electing for itself a mayor, who enjoys the dignity without the responsibility of mayoral duties. The mayoralty was a farce as early as Ray's time, who gives the proverb, "The Mayor of Altrincham and the Mayor of Over, the one was a thatcher, the other a dauber." Over is said to have been the birthplace of *Nixon*, the Cheshire prophet, whose celebrity was so great that even to this day his prophecies are quoted by the country people. There seems some doubt as to the precise time in which he lived, but the reign of James I. is usually associated with his sayings. In consequence of his reputation, he was sent for to court; but for some time declined to go, prophesying that he should be starved, or, in his own dialect, "clammed" there; and it is said that this really happened, in consequence of his being shut up in a room as a punishment for mischief, and forgotten for three days. Another of Nixon's prophecies predicted of Vale Royal Abbey, that—

"When the harrow cleaves this lea,
Yon house a raven's nest shall be"—

a prediction fulfilled when, 80 years later, Henry VIII. deposed Abbot Harrow, and gave the abbey to Sir Thos. Holcroft, whose crest was a raven. (See below, under Vale Royal.) The *ch.* of Over is more than 1 m. to the S. 1½ m. to the N.W. of the village is *Marton Grange*, an old timber-and-plaster seat of the Mainwarings. Half-way between Winsford and 37 m. *Hartford Bridge Stat.*, the rly. crosses the Weaver by a lofty viaduct—a charming view on either side; the river, which is broad and deep, flowing through a richly wooded vale, on its way to Northwich. The woods on the l. are those of *Vale Royal*, the seat of Lord Delamere. The history of this picturesque old place dates from very early times. It is said that Prince Edward, the eldest son of Henry III., was overtaken by a storm on his return from the Holy Land, and vowed a vow that if he got to land safely he would found a convent for 100 Cistercian monks; whereupon the vessel immediately righted and reached its port. At all events the monastery was founded by him in 1277, Queen Eleanor also assisting to lay the first stone, amidst a gathering of unusual magnificence. The old chroniclers were fond of inventing stories about the future glory of the new abbey; among others that, while the land was yet desolate and untrodden, shepherds heard music constantly playing on the site. The predictions were so far verified, that Vale Royal became rich and powerful; but with the power came tyranny, and the abbots systematically alienated the dependents in the neighbourhood by their harshness and injustice to such an extent, that in 1321 the monks dared not cross their threshold; and one John Boddeworth, who ventured to do so, was instantly murdered and a game of football played with his head. To such a pitch did the evil rise that the country people laid a complaint before Hugh, Justice of Chester, asserting that they were free tenants, and not vassals of the soil; but being refused a hearing, they appealed to the King, and impeached both the Justice and the Abbot. Again they were unsuccessful, and it was not until they came before Queen Philippa that they obtained a censure against the Abbot, who, on his return from court, was met by a body of his tenants, his retainers shot, and he himself dragged again before the King, who happened to be at Stamford. For nearly three centuries the abbey maintained an unusual splendour, but evil times at last fell upon it in the reign of Henry VIII., when the machinations of one Thomas Holcroft prevailed, the Abbot and monks turned out, and most of the land given to Holcroft, whose

heirs, after two generations, sold the property to the Cholmondeleys.

In the Civil War, Vale Royal suffered nearly as badly as Bramhall, having been so thoroughly plundered by Gen. Lambert and his troops, that the family are said to have only kept life in them by the milk of one white cow. Like Peter Davenport, Thomas Cholmondeley, after he had been robbed, was allowed to compound for it by a payment of 450*l*. The present house of Vale Royal consists of a centre and wings. In the library is one of the earliest MSS. of Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales.' Here, too, Nixon's prophecies are preserved in the original form. Some of it was built by the Holcrofts in the time of Elizabeth; but of the old abbey there are no remains, save a doorway or two in the offices, and a few local names, such as the Nuns' Grove and the Abbot's Walk.

33 m. *Hartford Stat.* (*Inn:* Railway) is 2½ m. from Northwich. The Cheshire Midland Rly. from Northwich to Helsby crosses the line here.

35½ m. ACTON JUNC., with branch to Northwich (Rte. 20). In the neighbourhood are the village of *Weaverham* and *Hefferston Grange* (R. Heath, Esq.).

Weaverham is an old-fashioned little place, containing several timbered houses. The *ch.*, rebuilt in the time of James I., consists of a steeple, nave, chancel, side aisles, and two chapels, one belonging to Hefferston Grange, the other to Crowton Hall. Amongst the tenements on the glebe land is one still called the "Cuckstool,"—the original spot where the Abbots of Vale Royal exercised that branch of their jurisdiction. One of the powers that they had, was that of claiming twopence in the pound from each servant's wages. *Crowton Hall*, 1½ m. to the l. of Acton Stat., is a timber farmhouse of the early part of the 17th centy., and was the residence of the old family of Gerard, of whom was John Gerard, a famous herbalist of Nantwich in 1535.

Another beautiful view is gained a little further on, where the rly. crosses the Weaver again at Dutton Bottom by a lofty viaduct. In a charming situation on the north bank of the river is *Dutton Hall*, the ancient seat of the Dutton family, celebrated in early Cheshire history as having jurisdiction over the minstrels of the county, which privilege was granted by Randle Blundeville to Roger de Lacy, and transferred by him to Hugh Dutton. He had also the questionable honour of the "advocaria meretricum," until the suppression of stews in Chester by Henry VIII. The house is a beautiful example of the domestic architecture of the 16th centy. The E. side of the quadrangle, of timber and plaster, is still standing. In the centre a door opens into a passage, on one side of which was the buttery, and on the other the hall, separated from the passage with ornamented pilasters. The outer doorway of the hall porch is a broad arch, with fanciful arabesque borders, and the following inscription in black letter:—

"Syr Peyrs Dutton, Knyght, Lorde of Dutton and my lade dame julian hys wiffe made this hall and buylding in the yeare of Our Lorde Gode MCCCCCXLIJ who thanketh Gode of all."

The Bridgewater Canal runs close alongside of the rly. on rt. to

39¾ m. PRESTON BROOK JUNC., from whence the direct Liverpool line is given off, viâ Runcorn (Rte. 24); and presently the line from Chester to Warrington crosses the London and North-Western at a high level.

42½ m. *Moore Stat.* The country, which has been broken and wooded, now becomes flat and rather marshy as the rly. crosses the Mersey and the Arpley meadows, and enters Lancashire at

45 m. *Warrington* (*Inn:* Lion). (Rte. 26.)

ROUTE 18.

FROM STOCKPORT TO PENISTONE, BY GLOSSOP.

(Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway.)

The passenger from Stockport to Sheffield quits the town from the *Teviotdale Stat.*, a pretty brick building, with an open arcade in front, and gradually mounts to high ground overlooking the river.

½ m. *Portwood Stat.* accommodates the eastern suburb of Stockport. The windings of the Goyt, which does not receive the name of Mersey till after the addition of the Tame, are exceedingly pretty on rt., and several handsome residences, such as *Bredbury Hall* (R. Shipman, Esq.) and others, show that the Stockport manufacturers have appreciated the beauty of the scene. At WOODLEY JUNC., where the Midland line from Buxton to Manchester crosses, there is an establishment for making hats by steam. From hence a short branch communicates with the main line from Manchester to Sheffield, joining it at

5 m. GODLEY JUNC. Werneth Low is a prominent object on rt.

6½ m. *Mottram Stat.* The town of Mottram in Longdendale is placed on a height in a wild and picturesque country, 1½ m. to the l. of the rly., standing sentinel, as it were, to the desolate and rugged country that runs from hence far into Lancashire, Derbyshire, and Yorkshire—the great backbone of millstone grit which forms such a special feature in northern England. The tourist seldom penetrates into this region, but it is worth visiting for all that, and the pedestrian will find in the cloughs, edges, and mosses, of which the local names are composed, scenery of a very high order, though perhaps often repeating itself. It is one of the most picturesque although lonely districts of Cheshire, and a good bag of grouse may be made here or about Crowden. The *Rubus Chamæmorus*, or cloudberry, is found in this neighbourhood. Mottram has a fine old Perp. *ch.*, possessing a nave, aisles, chancel, a tower, and two chapels belonging to Hollingworth Hall and the manor of Staley, in one of which are the recumbent figures of Ralph Staleigh and his wife, the former in mail armour. In the other is an altar-tomb, with the recumbent figure of Serjeant Bretland, died 1703, who is represented in his wig and gown, with a long Latin inscription. In the interior of the ch. is a painting of Moses and Aaron. The view from the churchyard is very extensive, looking down the vale to Tintwistle, and the Derbyshire hills on the other side the Etherow. In the neighbourhood are *Hill End* (J. Chapman, Esq.), *Thorncliffe Hall* (F. Midwood, Esq.), and *Hollingworth Hall* (J. Hollingworth, Esq.), the seat of that family since the time of King John. The village of *Hollingworth*, 1 m. N.E. of Mottram, is dependent on its cotton and print works. Immediately after leaving Mottram, the rly. crosses the Etherow and enters Derbyshire, but keeps close to the Cheshire boundary until it enters Yorkshire at Woodhead.

At 8½ m. *Dinting Vale Stat.* the rly. is carried across the valley by a remarkably beautiful viaduct of 16 stone and timber arches of 125 ft. span and 120 ft. in height. [A short branch runs to the manufacturing town of *Glossop*, in Derby-

shire (*Hotel:* Norfolk Arms), a brisk, thriving place, very finely situated amidst the ravines of the upper district of the Peak, and possessing a large trade in cotton and calico printing. It is a great stronghold of the Roman Catholic community, who possess a handsome ch. and large school. This is probably owing to its being the manorial property of Lord Howard of Glossop, whose seat, *Glossop Hall*, adjoins the town. It has been modernised and enlarged, and with its ornamental grounds and terraces forms one of the choicest residences in the North. The *ch.*, the tower and spire of which were added in 1855 by the Duke, was rebuilt in 1836, and contains a monument (bust) by *Bacon* to a Mr. Hague, who left several donations to the poor of the town. In the neighbourhood are some interesting earthworks; on the W. of the rly. *Melandra Castle*, an oblong rectangular fortification overlooking the Etherow, and on the E. *Mouslow Castle*, a circular camp. The scenery of the Etherow becomes more wild and romantic as the rly. ascends the vale of Longdendale, the hills on the W. being rugged and escarped, and rising to a very considerable height.]

9¼ m. *Hadfield Stat.*, to the N of which, 1 m. (in Cheshire), is the village of *Tintwistle* (anciently called Tengestvisie), the grey houses betokening the plentifulness of the millstone grit of which the district is composed. The geologist will be interested to know that Annelid tracks and burrows have been discovered in the vicinity. *Tintwistle Hall* is a stone building, which in 1653 superseded an older one of timber, the ancient residence of the De Burgh family, the lords of Longdendale. As the rly. ascends the vale, an additional interest is given both to the scenery and the utility of the Etherow by the enormous lakes or "lodges" which have been formed for the Manchester *Water Works*, the dams of which are perfectly Cyclopean in their massiveness. The Arnfield and Hollingworth reservoirs contain 48,000,000 cubic feet of water, the former holding 209,000,000 gallons, occupying 39 acres, and the latter holding 73,000,000 gallons, occupying 13 acres. Rhodes Wood holds 500,000,000 gallons, and is 54 acres in extent. Torside holds 1,474,000,000 gallons, occupying 160 acres, and Woodhead, of 135 acres, contains 1,235,000,000 gallons. The whole of the reservoirs in Longdendale have a united capacity of 3,491,000,000 gallons, and are calculated to supply Manchester with 30,000,000 gallons a day. The cost of construction was 1,300,000*l.*

At the eastern extremity of the Woodhead reservoir the rly. penetrates the mountains by the Woodhead Tunnel, nearly 3 m. in length, at the western end of which it enters Yorkshire. *Woodhead Chapel* was built by Sir Edward Shaa (or Shaw), Lord Mayor of London at the time of the usurpation of the crown by Richard III. From *Woodhead Stat.* the pedestrian can make an excursion over the hills to the S. to the head of the Derwent and descend its valley to Hope, or Hathersage. The distance to the source of the river is not very great (6 or 7 m.), but the walking over Featherbed Moss is difficult and tedious (*Handbook for Derbyshire*). From Woodhead Stat. it is 9 m. to Penistone (*Handbook for Yorkshire*).

ROUTE 19.

FROM STOCKPORT TO WARRINGTON, BY ALTRINCHAM AND LYMM.

This line forms part of a direct route between Sheffield, Stockport, Warrington, and Liverpool. Leaving Stockport by the Teviotdale Stat., it keeps the bottom of the valley, frequently approaching the river.

2½ m. *Cheadle Stat.* This is a prettily situated village, and a favourite residence of Manchester business men, for whose convenience an omnibus runs several times a day. The *ch.* has a tower, nave, side aisles, and chancel, with three altar-tombs of the Brereton family. In the neighbourhood is *Abney Hall*, the residence of Sir James Watts, a cotton magnate, who was mayor of Manchester during the Prince Consort's visit to that town, and who was knighted accordingly. Sir James, who was an excellent example of a Manchester millionaire, had inscribed in his dining-room—

"Who'd have thought,
Cotton bought it.'

4 m. *Northenden Stat.* The village lies to the rt. on the S. bank of the Mersey. The *ch.* is modern, with the exception of the tower, of the date 1500. Adjoining it is *Wythenshawe Hall* (T. W. Tatton, Esq.), a picturesque old gabled hall of the time of Edward III., part of which is of timber and plaster. In 1643 it was garrisoned for the king, but after a short siege surrendered to Col. Dukenfield, who brought two pieces of ordnance from Manchester to reduce it. Mrs. Tatton was one of the garrison, and seeing a Parliamentary soldier sitting on a wall, seized a musket, and brought him down. He is supposed to have been a Captain Adams, who is buried at Stockport, and entered in the register as "slayne at Wittenshawe." Like many other Cheshire gentlemen, Mr. Tatton had to compound for his loyalty, and suffered severely in his estate. Until of late years "a curious custom existed in Northenden (more commonly called Northen), of singing 'May carols' under the chamber windows of the drowsy villagers on the eve of the 1st of May. Of course, the poet of the gang fits the song to suit each particular case, extemporising lines addressed to the several sons and daughters by name." The following is a sample of a couple of verses:—

"Rise up the little infant, the flower of the flock,
For the summer springs so fresh, so green, and gay;
The cradle that you do lay in, it stands upon a rock,
Drawing near to the merry month of May.

'Rise up, the fair Maid of this house, put on your gay gold ring,
For the summer springs so fresh, so green, and gay;
And bring to us a can of beer—the better we shall sing,
Drawing near to the merry month of May."

6½ m. BAGULEY JUNC., near which the Manchester and Mid-Cheshire line crosses the Stockport and Warrington Rly. *Baguley*, or Baggiley, Hall is now a farmhouse, but retains considerable traces of its splendour under its former owner, Sir Wm. Baggiley, in the time of Edward II. From that family it passed successively to the Leghs, Viscount Allen, and Mr. Tatton, of Wythenshawe. Bishop Percy, in one of the ballads, mentions one of the Leghs:—

"At Bagiley that bearne
His biding place had,
And his ancestors of old time
Have yearded there long,
Before William Conqueror
This country did inhabit."

One side of the quadrangle is still left, containing the great hall, which is built of huge beams of oak, the interstices filled up with wickerwork. At one end are passages from the exterior to the inner court, the doors of which are concealed from the hall by oak screens. In all Cheshire houses the hall is made lower than the rest of the building, as from its arched roof it does not admit an upper story.—*Ormerod.* The hall has been shortened by a modern erection, where the daïs stood. At the opposite end, the doorways leading to the offices and the groining of the roof are perfect, and a capital example of 14th-centy. work. The roof rests upon wooden arches and pillars, the spans between being filled in with open trefoil-work. The windows are plain square mullions, with Dec. mouldings.

10½ m. *Broadheath Stat.*, ¾ of a mile from Altrincham (Rte. 20), the spire and houses of which place are seen on the hill to the l. *Oldfield Hall* is the seat of John Allen, Esq. From Broadheath the Watling Street runs due N. in its course from Cheshire to Manchester (Mancunium). 3 or 4 m. hence it crosses the Mersey, at a spot still called *Crossford*. On the Cheshire side was a Roman station supposed to be identical with the station called FINES MAXIMÆ ET FLAVIÆ, near the village of *Ashton-on-Mersey*, where there is a model farm, established by the late Mr. Sam. Brooks.

12 m. *Dunham-Massey Stat.* On the l. are the venerable woods of Dunham-Massey, the seat of the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, and a perfect paradise for Manchester picnickers and pleasure-seekers, who consider the woods pretty well their own, from the generous permission always accorded by the noble owner. The Norman barons had a castle here, but of this there are no remains. It attained its name, "The home of the Masseys on the downs," from its original possession by the Masseys, of whom Hamon Massey was first baron, and held the township under Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, in the reign of William the Conqueror. For a short time it passed into the hands of the Stranges, lords of Knockin, and afterwards into that of the Fittons. In the time of Henry VI. it came by marriage into the Booth family, one of whom, Sir George Booth, distinguished himself particularly, first on the side of the Parliament, and then of the Royalists, by whom he was rewarded with the command of the forces in the North-west, and made Baron Delamere. But he did not long continue a court favourite either with Charles II. or James II., and his son became a staunch partisan of the Prince of Orange, who created him Earl of Warrington. In 1758 this line came to an end, and the estate was brought to the Earl of Stamford by marriage with the heiress. The present title, therefore, of Warrington is a comparatively new creation, bestowed in 1796.

There is nothing particular in the aspect of the house, which is a plain quadrangular building of brick. The interior (not shown) contains a valuable collection of portraits by *Vandyck*, *Lely*, and other masters of the age of the Stuarts. One of the curiosities of the private grounds is the dogs' burial-ground, where mastiffs and other old favourites have been interred with affectionate care. Some of the inscriptions date from a considerable time back, such as "Here lyeth Puce, of old vertues, who died Oct. 17, 1702," while verse marks the headstone of others—

"Now poor Lion is dead and gone,
Once by Joseph thought much on;
And the servants, one and all,
Do regret poor Lion's fall."

The chief beauty of Dunham-Massey is the *Park*, famous for its oak-trees and magnificent breadths of bracken fern, which here grow higher and better than elsewhere, and set off the oak boles splendidly, and for its avenues of beeches, which rank among the finest in England. There is good timber at Dunham-Massey, but in Mid-Cheshire the parks are very poorly timbered, and oak does not generally grow well. Of it Leland writes: "iii miles farther I cam by a parke on the lefte hande wher Master Bouthe dwellith." Ormerod tells us that this park contained 500 head of deer. In early spring or autumn Dunham is well worth a visit, and particularly on any great holiday, when swarms of excursionists turn out from Manchester to enjoy the charming scenery and the fresh air of the adjoining Bowdon Downs. Outside the park and on the road from Altrincham to Knutsford is *Dunham Ch.*, built in 1855 by the Earl of Stamford and Warrington from designs by Mr. *Hayley*, at a cost of 20,000*l*. It is of transition from Dec. to Perp. style, and beautifully ornamented throughout. It is cruciform, consisting of nave and aisles (with clerestory), transepts, choir, and a chapel, called the Stamford Chapel. The tower and spire, 210 ft. in height, form a conspicuous landmark. In the former is a fine peal of bells, one of which is thus inscribed:—

"As queen of queens, Victoria reigns,
I sit as queen o'er Music's strains;
And may her subjects loyal be
As mine I and dwell in harmony."

The interior of the ch. is very rich. The E. window of 7 lights is filled with stained glass (by *Willement*), representing the Apostles and Prophets. The nave has a finely carved oak roof, with figures of angels at the end of the hammerbeams. The pulpit, font, and reredos are all exquisitely carved—the latter in good keeping with the E. window above it. The organ, by *Hill*, is placed in the N. transept so as not to interfere with the effect of the transept window. The neighbouring towns of Altrincham and Bowdon are described in the next route. Adjoining the park on the W. is the pretty little village of *Bollington*, on the banks of the Bollin, and still further W. is *Agden Hall* (T. S. Bazley, Esq.), a modern Elizabethan residence built on the ruins of the old hall, the former seat of the Agden family, and well placed on Agden Brow, overlooking a large expanse of country.

To the rt. of *Dunham Stat.* (3 m.) is *Carrington Moss*, one of the large bogs which characterise the low levels of the Mersey lands. It is 750 acres in extent; but modern agriculture and deep draining are gradually bringing it into cultivation. The village of *Carrington* is situated on the riverside, at its junction with the Irwell. The Mersey has naturally a very winding course through this flat district; but short cuts have been made to improve the navigation, and sluices to allow of irrigation. On the site of Carrington Old Hall is now a modern farmhouse.

The Bollin river is crossed at

14 m. *Heatley Stat.* 1 m. to the N. is *Warburton*, the *ch.* of which is one of the few remaining 14th-centy. churches with portions of the original timber. This is to be seen in the pillars that divide the nave and aisles. Warburton was once a place of consequence, having been selected by Henry II. as the locality for a monastery of Præmonstratensians. It did not flourish with the glory of Vale Royal, but became merged into the abbey of Cockersand, in Lancashire (Rte. 42). The only

trace of the priory is now to be found in the name of a field, called the Abbey Croft, and a few tombstones in the churchyard. To the E. of the ch. are vestiges of the moat which encircled the old hall, the residence of the Warburton family.

15½ m. *Lymm Stat.* (*Inn:* Plough). The ancient town of Lymm is more than a mile from the stat., and occupies a picturesque situation on the New Red sandstone terrace that runs across North Cheshire. The *ch.*, placed at the head of a charming dingle, through which the Dane rushes brawling down, is old, of the same stone, and was restored in 1850. It is of Dec. date, and has a tower, nave, side aisles, transepts, choir, and a chapel, which once belonged to the family of Domville, the former possessors of Lymm Hall. The E. window is a memorial to the late rector, who died in 1865.

The lake, which is formed by a dam close to the ch., and the wooded dingle below it, are a source of great attraction to visitors; indeed, the whole course of this little stream affords a constant succession of pretty peeps. At the uppermost part of the dam, which is private property, a curious little "dropping" cave has been formed by the undermining of the bank by a small tributary stream.

Lymm Hall (J. Barratt, Esq.), once the residence of the Domville family, is an old grey building within a moat, and near the gates are the steps of a cross cut out of the solid New Red sandstone.

This formation, or the *Triassic*, is that of which the greater portion of Cheshire strata is composed, and is the source from whence the great supplies of rock-salt are derived (*Introduction*, p. xxiv). The geologist will find a peculiar interest in the quarries at Lymm (beyond the ch.), for they have yielded large numbers of the footprints of the Cheirotherium or Labyrinthodon, a gigantic kind of tortoise that flourished in the Triassic era. The only other localities in England where they have been found are at Storeton, near Birkenhead (Rte. 25), and in Warwickshire. In the neighbourhood of Lymm are *Statham Lodge* (P. Stubs, Esq.), and *Oughtrington Hall* (G. B. Dewhurst Esq.), the former seat of the Leighs.

Some 2 m. to the S.E. of Lymm is the township of *High Leigh*, in which, closely adjoining each other, are the grounds of *West Hall* (Captain Egerton Leigh), and *East Hall* (Colonel Legh). In Henry II.'s time this manor was granted in moieties to Hamon de Legh, progenitor of the West Hall family, and Eward, the ancestors of the Leghs of East Hall. A fine Elizabethan mansion was erected at East Hall by Thomas Legh, but pulled down at the end of the last centy. and the present building substituted. In the grounds (which were laid out by *Repton*) is the old chapel, built in 1581, in which the family pew formerly stretched across the whole of the E. end. *West Hall*, too, has its chapel, built in 1815, in lieu of one of the date of 1404. The old hall, now a farmhouse, was once the most beautiful timber-house in the county.

17½ m. *Thelwall Stat.* The village is said to be of Saxon origin, and tradition states that Edward the Elder founded a port here in 923, the river having been then much wider than it is now. However that may have been, there is no doubt but that the course of the Mersey is considerably altered from what it was in old times. Near Thelwall it makes one of its large bends, almost enclosing a flat alluvial river meadow, which in this neighbourhood are known by the name of "Ees" (qy. ynys or island?) such as Thelwall

Ees, Rixton Ees, Lymm Ees, &c. Close to the rly. are *Thelwall Hall* (J. Nicholson, Esq.), and *Greenfield* (J. Stanton, Esq.). A little higher up the river are the ruins of a powder-mill, where the manufacture had been carried on for more than 100 years, until an explosion in 1855 destroyed the buildings.

Grappenhall Ch., on l., was built in the 16th centy., and consists of nave, 3 aisles, transept, and chancel. The N. aisle projects further E. than the S. aisle. There is some carved tabernacle work, and some old stained glass in the interior.

Sir P. Leicester says that "Sir William Boydell, of Dodleston, built a chappell in this church, wherein William Boydell, his son and heir, swore to find an honest chaplin, to pray for the souls of the said Sir William and Nichola his wife, 1334." *The Hall* (Mrs. Greenall), and *The Heys* (T. Parr, Esq.).

20½ m. *Latchford Stat.* This is a suburb of Warrington, although on the Cheshire side of the river. The termination of the name shows its proximity to the river. By following the Old Quay Canal a little to the S., the antiquary will again reach the Mersey at the site of the old *Roman Stat.*, now called Wilderspool. There is nothing left to identify it except the causeway, which leads by the side of the river to Warrington; but at various times foundations of dwellings, pottery, and coins of the time of Vespasian and Domitian, have been disinterred. Many antiquaries believe Wilderspool to be the locality of the ancient Veratinum; and it is clear that a road ran through it from Warrington to Northwich, through Appleton and Stretton, the names of which places betoken their vicinity to it.

Appleton village and Hall (T. H. Lyon, Esq.) are situated on the slope of a steep New Red sandstone knoll, known as Hill Cliff, which formerly was surmounted by a beacon. It is now the locality of the Warrington Water-works.

A little beyond Latchford the rly. crosses the Mersey into Lancashire, and enters 21½ m. *Warrington* at the Arpley Stat. (Rte. 26).

ROUTE 20.

FROM MANCHESTER TO CHESTER, BY ALTRINCHAM, NORTHWICH, AND DELAMERE FOREST.

(Mid-Cheshire Railway.)

The line from Manchester to Altrincham enters Cheshire immediately on crossing the Mersey, near

3½ m. *Stretford Stat.* The village is pretty and rural. It is recorded that in 1581 the curate of Stretford was presented or prosecuted for keeping an alehouse, and was prohibited from keeping "any ale or other victuals to sell in his house."

5 m. *Sale Stat.* (*Hotel:* Leigh Arms), much in request for villa residences of Manchester merchants. Sale Old Hall was formerly the seat of the Masseys.

6 m. *Brooklands Stat.* Brooklands Hotel, very comfortable; close to the station.

7 m. *Timperley Stat.* On the l. is *Riddings*, an old mansion approached across a moat by a stone gateway, and *Fir Tree Farm*, an old-fashioned farmhouse of timber and plaster (date 1676). There

is a pretty modern *ch.* at Timperley, with a conspicuous spire. In the neighbourhood the botanist will find *Melilotus arvensis.*

The line almost immediately passes under the Stockport and Warrington Rly. (Rte. 19), and arrives at 8 m. *Altrincham Stat.* (*Hotel:* Unicorn). Altrincham, though containing nothing of antiquarian interest, is by no means a modern town, the inhabitants having obtained many privileges from Hamon de Massey in the reign of Edward I., and, amongst others, a "Guild of Free Traffic" and an exemption from tolls. Though in itself there is little to see, it is pleasant, clean, and cheerful, in addition to which its proximity to Bowdon Downs and the woods of Dunham Massey is always an attraction to visitors and residents.

The buildings worth notice are the Town-hall, the Literary Institution, and Lloyd's Hospital—all modern and built of brick, with stone facings. The neighbourhood is principally devoted to market-gardening for the supply of Manchester tables. It used to be said that "across Bollin (river) agriculture ceased in Cheshire and was replaced by horticulture." It is famous for a particular carrot, called the Altrincham, or green-top-carrot.

A short branch of 1 m. leads to *Bowdon*, the celebrity of whose downs for charming scenery and beautiful air is somewhat more than local. But it has paid the usual penalty of its attractions and its neighbourhood to a large city, by being built over as fast as possible. Bowdon (called in 'Domesday' Bogedon) derives its name from Saxon "bode," a dwelling, and "dun, down; and is said, even in those early days, to have possessed a church, a priest, and a grinding-mill. The importance of its *church* seems to have clung all along to it, for there is a local proverb that "every man is not born to be vicar of Bowdon." It is one of the finest in the county, and has been restored at least three times, viz., in 1320, 1520, and 1860. It is now in style late Perp., and consists of nave, aisles, transepts, and choir, with two chantries, called the S. or Dunham chapel, and the N. or Carrington chapel. The last restoration has been carried out in excellent taste from the designs of *Mr. Brakespear*, of Manchester, and the interior is now characterised by great breadth and beauty of proportion. There are also some fine memorial windows, especially the Crucifixion, in the E. window, given by the late Alderman Neild; the Miracles and Parables, in the transept windows (by *Clutterbuck*). Amongst the monuments is one by *Westmacott*, to the Assheton family. In the Dunham chapel is a mural monument to Langham and Henry Booth, the young sons of an Earl of Warrington, 1724; also to the Earl of Warrington, son of Lord Delamere, who was committed to the Tower and tried for high treason in 1681. In the Carrington chapel are figures of William Brereton, of Ashley, and his wife, Jane Warburton. Around them are 7 kneeling figures, one of an infant in swaddling-clothes, which circumscribe his kneeling-powers, and another which holds a scroll. The neighbourhood of Bowdon abounds in pleasant *walks*—such as to Dunham-Massey (Rte. 19) 1 m., to Rostherne 3 m., passing the vicarage and crossing the pretty streams of the *Bollin* and the *Birkin*—of which Drayton says:

"And Bollen, that along doth nimbler Birkin bring
From Maxfield's mightie wildes;"

to Ashley 2 m., to Agden 4 m.

Quitting the Cheshire Midland Stat. at Altrincham, the traveller leaves Bowdon to the rt. and stops at 8½m. *Peel Causeway Stat.* To l., 1½ m., is *Hale*, which had a bad character, if we are to believe Sir Peter

Leicester, the historian of Cheshire: "The chapel was much frequented by schismatical ministers, and, as it were, a receptacle for nonconformists, in which dissolute times every pragmatical illiterate person, as the humour served him, stepped into the pulpit, without any lawful calling thereto or licence of authority."

10¼ m. *Ashley Stat.*, a good starting-point from whence to follow up the valley of the *Bollin*, a stream dear to the Cheshire angler for the size and flavour of its trout. It is also famous for possessing a fish, called the "graining" (*Leuciscus Lancastriensis*), supposed to be peculiar to the North of England and to some of the Swiss lakes. It is nearly allied to the dace, but differs in several particulars. It is said to be found also in the tributaries of the Mersey, near Warrington and Knowsley.

Near the stat. on rt. is *Ashley Hall*, now a farmhouse, still interesting, from its old-fashioned appearance, its rookery, and its quaint garden. Ashley was the property of the Assheton family till 1846, when Mr. Assheton Smith, the representative of that family, and the famous sportsman, sold it to Lord Egerton of Tatton. Historically, Ashley is celebrated for being the rendezvous of the Cheshire gentry to decide their course of action with respect to joining the standard of the Old Pretender in 1715. The members of this important meeting were Thomas Assheton of Ashley, Henry Legh of High Legh, John Warren of Poynton, Amos Meredith of Henbury, Sir Ralph Grosvenor of Eaton, Earl of Barrymore, Peter Legh of Lyme, Alexander Radcliffe, Robert Cholmondeley, Charles Hurlson, and Edward Beresford. The casting vote was given against the enterprise by Mr. Assheton. They decided to *do nothing*, i.e. not to help the Pretender, but to wait and watch events. The hall contained a series of somewhat commonplace portraits of many of these gentlemen, but they were removed to Tatton by Lord Egerton.

[2 m. to the W. of Ashley Stat. is the village of *Rostherne*, and the lovely *Rostherne Mere*, among the largest of the Cheshire meres, though there are others with considerable pretensions to scenery. It is 115 acres in extent, and of very great depth. "On the southern margin, a short distance to the W. of the summer-house, it is 17 ft., and about a third of the distance across from this point, the depth is over 100 ft." Local opinion held Rostherne Mere bottomless, until Admiral Cotton, brother of Sir Sidney, the Indian hero, took the soundings, and found the greatest depth to be a little more than 17 fathoms. Towards the S. the banks gradually rise to a considerable height, and, being well wooded, form a most charming feature in the landscape. All sorts of legends are current about Rostherne, as is the case with most lakes which are reported to be deep. One is, that a mermaid comes up on Easter Sunday and rings a bell: another, that it communicates with the Irish Channel by a subterranean passage; another (not so improbable), that it once formed with Tabley, Tatton, Mere, and other lakes, a vast sheet of water that covered the country between Alderley and High Leigh. Whatever its antecedents may have been, Rostherne is well worth a visit, and has a peculiar though melancholy character of its own. The botanist will find here *Cerastium aquaticum* and *Lysimachia nummularia*.

Overlooking the lake on the S. is the pretty little *ch.* of *Rostherne* (Rodes-torne, the tarn of the Holy Rood), embowered in trees, and the beau-ideal of a sequestered country ch. The ch.-yd. is entered by a picturesque old lych-gate. The ch. itself is not so old (1533), and

the architecture is of a debased character. At the W. end is a pinnacled tower, said to be the third it has had; and a peculiar appearance is given to the body of the building by a row of windows like dormer windows. Internally, the aisles are divided from the nave by 6 arches, and these have been scraped as far as the entrance of the chancel. The oak pulpit was given by Lord Egerton of Tatton, and the stained-glass E. window is by *Hardman*. There are chapels for the manors of West Hall, Agden, Mere, and Tatton, and one divided between Over Tabley and East Hall. The Egerton chapel, on S. of the chancel, is remarkable for its monuments, and particularly for one by *Westmacott*, to Charlotte Beatrix Egerton, who was found dead in her bed, aged 21. Inscribed beneath are the lines:—

"Softly she slept—in that last hour
God's angel hovered nigh;
He raised with love that fragile flower
To wake in bliss on high."

There is also one by *Bacon* to Mr. Brooke of Mere Hall, 1815, and a very large and rather grandiose sarcophagus by *Bacon*, to Mr. Egerton of Tatton, 1792. The tablet is supported by the figures of Patience and Hope. A modern brass tablet records the names of various members of Mr. Cornewall Legh's family. Notice also the effigy of knight in chain armour, found in digging the foundations of the tower. Some have supposed that it formed the lid of a stone coffin, which is preserved outside the W. door, others that it may have occupied a recess with a canopy, now filled up. "The Knight is probably the effigies of Sir Hugh Venables of Kinderton, of Rostherne, Astbury, and Ecclestone, temp. Henry III." The village of Rostherne is very small, but shows the care of a good resident landlord in its neat houses and school. *The Hall* is the seat of the Hon. Wilbraham Egerton. The visitor can either return to Ashley Stat., or walk to Bowdon, across the Birkin and Bollin valleys—a charming walk; or proceed to Knutsford, 4 m., joining the turnpike-road at 1 m. *Bucklow Hill* (Swan *Inn*, good roadside hostelry), which gives its name to the Hundred of Bucklow.

2 m. *Mere Hall* (Mrs. Brooke,) a handsome Elizabethan residence overlooking the lake of Mere. Behind Mere Hall is the *Old Hall*, and between this and High Legh is *Hoo Green*, where Dick Turpin is said to have been apprehended, after committing a robbery at Newbridge, between Bucklow and Altrincham. 4 m. Knutsford.]

12 m. *Mobberly Stat.* A priory formerly existed here, founded by Patrick de Mobberly for Regular Canons, 1206; but the only relic of it is to be found in a piscina and sedilia in the *ch.*, which is full a mile from the station on the Alderley road, and which contains also an interesting old rood-loft. Amongst other curiosities are a *brass* to James Stanley, 1674; a parchment monument, painted to look like marble, to Thomas Mallory, the possessor of the Old Hall, 1713; and a monument to Elizabeth Robinson, consisting of a representation, on wood, of a body laid out with its shroud, with the accompaniment of several chaunts and Latin inscriptions.

In the neighbourhood of Mobberly are *Mobberly Hall* and *New Hall* (Mr. Harter), *Newton Hall*; and between Mobberly and Knutsford is *Dukenfield Hall*, now a farmhouse. It was once the seat of the Daniels family, the head of which is said to have been present at the meeting at Ashley Hall, and to have then and there quarrelled with his brother-in-law, Captain Ratcliffe. They adjourned to a field, where the captain was slain, and the place is still known as the "Bloody." Near Mob-

berley grow *Cicuta virosa*, *Pimpinella magna*, *Orchis conopsea* (Knutsford Moor).

15 m. *Knutsford* (*Inns:* Royal George, very indifferent and uncomfortable, though the posting, which is detached, is good; Angel), is the capital of Mid-Cheshire, inasmuch as the quarter sessions are held here, and it is the seat of the county gaol. Otherwise it is a quiet, prosy little place, dependent on the agricultural neighbourhood around, and the many wealthy families that reside near it. It is said to derive its name either from the great Danish King's-"ford," Canute's-ford. Knut's-ford; or from the A.-S. words Knotte, Knytte, said of the uniting here, by a ford or causeway, of two opposite borders of a morass. The *ch.* is a plain brick building of the last centy., and contains nothing of interest except a stained E. window to the memory of a former vicar. The site of the old ch. is about 1 m. to the E. of the town. It now marks the burial-place of the Leghs of Norbury Booths; although the ch. itself, which was partly rebuilt in Henry VIII.'s reign, did not fall till 1741. There is a splendid view from this spot, extending from Rivington Pike on the N. to Alderley and Cloud End. Until 1870 the gaol, in which there are 171 prisoners and the separate system is adopted, was the chief institution in Knutsford, but a new Town-hall has now been built opposite to it, befitting its importance as a central town of Cheshire. From its quiet situation and distance from manufacturing towns, Knutsford has preserved several old customs, amongst which is this very pretty one. "On the occasion of a wedding, every householder interested in or related to bride or bridegroom works upon the ground in front of his house a pretty device or motto in coloured sands, so that the streets and roadways are one continuous system of scales, arranged one under the other, with a border more or less elaborate. The origin of the custom is unknown.

At Knutsford, near the Stat., is probably the oldest Unitarian graveyd. in England, in which the resting-place of Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell is marked by a plain stone cross, where she sleeps amidst her relations the Hollands. Knutsford was the scene of her sketches of Cranford in 'Household Words' and her 'Miss Matty' was a local character known in the town. Sir Henry Holland, the queen's late physician extraordinary, was a native of the town, where his father, Peter Holland, was apothecary and accoucheur. According to Sir Henry, *Saxifraga Hirculus* used to grow on Knutsford Moor, its most southern British station. It is entered there in all British Floras, but disappeared 40 years ago through the rapacity of collectors.

Immediately on the outskirts of the town is the lodge-gate of *Tatton*, the spacious seat of Lord Egerton of Tatton, situated in an extensive park, from 10 to 11 m. in circumference, and containing about 2500 acres, and herds of 800 fallow and 40 red deer. This park is noticed in Speed's map of the county, engraved in the reign of James I. (see Shirley, p. 206). It was greatly enlarged by Samuel Egerton, Esq., about the year 1760. It is at present perhaps the largest park in the county. Lyme Park is nearly as large; and as wild and beautiful as Tatton is tame and conventional. Tatton suffers from being flat and poorly timbered. There were once two large lakes in the park, but one of them has been drained. *Cicuta virosa* may be found here.

The house is a fine Grecian building, of white freestone, commenced from designs by *Samuel Wyatt*; but it was not finished until Mr. Wilbraham Egerton's time, under the superintendence of *Lewis Wyatt*, although it is said to consist of but

one wing of the original plan. Each column of the portico is of a single block of Runcorn stone. The house is not shown, but the gardens, which are well kept up, and abound in very choice orchids and exotics, are opened to visitors on Saturdays at 2 o'clock. Tatton formerly belonged to the family of that name, and was held under the priory of St. John of Jerusalem. By marriage it passed successively from the Tattons to the Masseys, Stanleys, and Breretons, the last of whom settled it on his brother-in-law, Sir Thomas Egerton, Lord Chancellor.

¾ m. to the S. of Knutsford is *Norbury Booths Hall*, the seat of J. P. Legh, Esq. The 'Water soldier,' 'Stratiotes Aloides,' grows in the pool near the house. The late Peter Legh was a man of ability, who published annually the 'Ombrological Journal' and wrote 'The Music of the Eye.' 1½ m. is *Toft Hall* (R. O. Leycester, Esq.), an old-fashioned brick house, with wings and a central tower. There is a beautiful avenue of elms here. It is rather short, but in parts double. The Leycesters of Toft are one of Shirley's 300 Noble and Gentle Families who have held land from father to son for 300 years, a test in which most Cheshire good families fail. The *ch.* (built in 1854) contains a font of Caen stone, the panels of which are exquisitely sculptured. 2 m. further S. is *Over Peover Hall*, the seat of Sir Stapleton T. Mainwaring, Bart., an old Elizabethan house, erected by Sir Randle Mainwaring, and still preserving its characteristic gables, covered with ivy. The stables are quite unique of their kind, and highly interesting. Randle Mainwaring was secretary to the unfortunate Lord Strafford, and his picture, associated with his scroll, still remains at Peover Hall. Sir Thomas, created 1st Baronet at the Restoration, engaged with Sir P. Leicester, in the famous 'Amicie' controversy. The late Sir Harry Mainwaring was Vice-Chairman of Quarter Sessions, and a prominent figure in county circles and politics. He was a staunch advocate of the old system of Cheshire cheese farming, now obsolete, which rejoiced in undrained rush-grown pastures. He was a man of high and varied ability; in youth attached to the Diplomatic service. The *ch.*, close by the Hall, contains the Mainwaring chapel, and monuments to that family, including Sir John Mainwaring, in plate armour (1515), his wife, and 15 children. There is also an alabaster slab to Randle Mainwaring, and Margery, his wife, the figure and features of the latter being beautifully carved.

From Peover the pedestrian need not return to Knutsford, unless he wish, but can make his way to *Chelford* Stat. (Rte. 13), 2½ m. to the E. But the very interesting *ch.* of Nether or Lower Peover must not passed unnoticed, lying nearer Tabley and somewhat isolated. It is a fine and almost unique specimen of a black-and-white timbered ch., in which the ancient features have been most carefully restored by Salvin in 1852. Nave, chancel, N. and S. aisles, and mortuary chapels (in one of which are monuments of the Shakerley family, who suffered for their loyalty to Charles I., with the badge of a gauntlet, an helmet, &c.) with all the arches and screens, are of massive oak; and the exterior as well as the interior, save the tower of stone built by John Boden, in 1582, are of timber-and-plaster work. A stigma attached to the first peal of bells, recorded in the rhymeless rhyme :—

"Higher Peover kettles, lower Peover pans,
Knutford sweet roses, and Rosthern great drones.

But the parish repaired this by putting up a peal of six musical bells, and the whole ch. is an interesting and curious ecclesiastical

rarity. In the Shakerley Chapel is an oak chest, on the lid of which runs the legend that the Cheshire damsel who can lift it is worthy and vigorous enough to become a Cheshire farmer's wife. A good E. window of painted glass was erected by subscription in memory of the Rev. — Holme, incumbent for nearly half a centy. Hard by the entrance to the ch. is a clean bright hostelry, where the landlord and his family discharge lovingly the duties of lay curators of the sacred edifice.

2 m. W. of Knutsford is *Tabley*, the seat of Lord de Tabley. The present *Hall* is a brick house (from designs by *Carr* of York), consisting of a centre and wings, connected by corridors. In front is a Doric portico, and a fine terrace. The chief object of interest here is the *Old Hall*, built upon an island in the moat. The E. side only of this ancient timber house is left, and contains a wainscoted hall, one arch supporting which is of enormous proportions, an oak staircase, and gallery, a carved chimney-piece, 1619, in compartments of which are represented Cleopatra and Lucretia, and a bay window of stained glass with the Leicester pedigree. One old oak-panelled room answers its traditional name of Lady Leicester's Oratory; another, which has a curious plaster cornice, bears the date of Elizabeth. Handsome old oak cabinets and other furniture adorn this curious old Hall, and amongst other curiosities an old "spinet" with a painting under the lid, which is emblematical. Most of the timber work has been opened to view under the judicious discretion of the present peer, together with some plaster panelling, the dints still remaining upon which show that it once served as a target for the amusement of the ancient owner and his friends. For here dwelt, in seclusion, Sir Peter Leicester, one of the most devoted servants of the royal cause, for which, however, he suffered severely in his worldly comfort and prosperity. He settled down at Tabley, and passed his time in literary and antiquarian pursuits, chief amongst which was his work on the 'History of Cheshire,' the basis of almost every other work of the kind.

The chapel was built by him in 1675, and is still used. It was copied from Brazenose old chapel at Oxford, and is of Jacobean style and character. The reredos, painted glass, and altar-cloths are in excellent keeping. The gallery at Tabley contains a large number of paintings, some of them of great excellence. Amongst them are two large original paintings by *Turner*, in his earlier style.

From Knutsford the rly. runs S.W. to 17¼ m. *Plumley Stat.* Near it, on rt., is *Holford Hall*, the old seat of the Cholmondeleys, now a farmhouse. It is of timber and plaster, and has a moat. The original plan of the building was three-sided only, the fourth side being formed by the moat and the bridge. The upper story, looking into the interior of the court, projects on wooden pillars over a piazza. *Acorus Calamus* still survives here in a 'locale' mentioned by Ray. It was grown doubtless to strew the floors of the old Manor House in its palmy days. A little below Holford Hall, Peover Eye river joins Waterless brook; two prominent streams in the Mid-Cheshire drainage. Leaving on rt. the village of *Lostock Gralam*, the traveller arrives at

21 m. NORTHWICH JUNC. with the London and North-Western Rly. from Sandbach. *Northwich* (*Inns:* Crown and Anchor; Angel) (Pop. 37,258), is not only the busiest (except Stockport), but the dirtiest town in Cheshire, both of which distinctions it derives from being the principal seat

of the salt trade. Drayton thus writes:—

"And what the famous flood far more than that enriches,
The bracky Fountaines are, those two renowned Wyches,
The Nant-Wych and the North, whose either brynie well,
For store and sorts of salts make Weever to excell."

Polyolb. xi. 59–62.

Although it is of very considerable antiquity, there is really nothing to see in the place itself, all the interest being concentrated in the outskirts, where the principal mines are to be found, and where, at Witton, is the *Parish Church*, built circ. 1560, and containing a good E. window to the memory of Archdeacon Greenall. The high street of the town is called *Witton Street*. The glittering beauty that a salt-mine displays, when seen under proper circumstances, has no counterpart in the scenery of the surface, but rather the reverse; for there is an air of desolation and untidiness which one usually finds in a coal-mining district. Moreover, some of the same physical disadvantages are to be found in the shape of subsidences of the earth, which are anything but sightly, and are exceedingly detrimental to house property. "Immense excavations are occasioned by the constant pumping up of brine, at a depth of 35 to 40 yds., which creates large chasms, and the superincumbent pressure depresses the land in a corresponding ratio. Many of the houses are screwed and bolted together to keep them secure; and if the salt-works continue to be prosecuted with their present vigour, the time will come when a great portion of the town and the neighbourhood of Northwich will be sunk beneath the level of the waters of the Weever. Witton corn-mill fell some years ago. Adjoining its site is the Leicester Arms public-house, in which a gradual subsidence of the earth has converted the sitting-rooms and tap-room into cellars, and the apartments used as sleeping-rooms at that period are now the sitting-rooms and the tap-room."—*Kelly*. Of the antiquity of the salt trade, Camden says that "Nortwich was in British, Hellath du, signifying the black salt-pit, where there is a deep and plentiful brine-pit, with stairs about it, by which, when they have drawn the water in their leather buckets, they ascend half naked to the troughs and fill them; from whence it is conveyed to the Wich Houses, that are furnished with great piles of wood."

King, in his 'Vale Royal,' also states that "at Northwich there was a salt-spring or brine-pit on the bank of the River Dane, from which the brine runneth on the ground in troughs of wood, covered over with boards, until it comes to the wich houses, where they made salt."

The beds of *salt*, which, fortunately for Cheshire, exist in such quantities, are geologically found in the Keuper strata of the Triassic or New Red Sandstone series, which, with the underlying Bunter Sandstone of the same series, form three-fourths of the county. The salt, however, is entirely found in the upper or Keuper bed, which, speaking roughly, occupies the districts watered by the Weever, Dane, and Bollin rivers; though it is in the valley of the Weever that the great salt-stores are found, as at Wheelock, Middlewich, Winsford, and Northwich.

"The district generally known by the name of Northwich is locally divided into Hartford, Castle Northwich, and Winnington on the western side of the Weever; Leftwich, between the Weever and the Dane, which there join; Witton and Northwich, having the Dane on the S., the Weever on the W., and Witton Brook on the N.; and Marbury and Anderton on the N. side of the Weever."—*Ormerod*, 'Geol. Soc. Journal.'

Two kinds or classes of salt are

worked and exported from Northwich, the rock and the white salt, the latter being the ordinary salt with which the world in general is acquainted. The former is principally shipped to Belgium and Prussia, quantities varying from 50,000 to 60,000 tons being annually sent down the Weever in flat-bottomed boats made for the purpose, to the Mersey near Frodsham. Rock-salt was discovered at Marbury by accident in 1670, in a trial for coal; and for many years after that, only the upper bed of the two that are now known was worked. The depth down to the upper bed varies with the irregularity of the ground, but is generally from 96 to 159 ft. The thickness of the upper bed varies from 84 to 90 ft., but it thins off towards the S.W., losing 15 ft. in the course of a mile. Below this is a bed of indurated clay (30 ft.) overlaying the second or great bed of salt, which is now the principal source of the supplies. At Marston Pit, this bed is 151 ft. in thickness, but the proportion of earth in the salt varies very much, the purest salt being found about the middle of the deposit.

The salt mine which is most usually visited is the Marston mine, or *Old Marston*, as it is popularly called, belonging to Messrs. Fletcher and Rigby, and situated about 1¼ m. to the N.E. of Northwich. It has been worked for over 100 years, is 120 yards in depth, and is excavated to an area of 33 acres. On state occasions—such as that on which the Emperor of Russia visited it in 1844, and subsequently at the meeting of the British Association here in 1854—the mine is brilliantly lighted up by thousands of lamps and blue lights, and the effect of the whole is extraordinarily fine. It is occasionally illuminated on gala days, such as Whitmonday, when enormous numbers of people go down on payment of a small fee. "The roof of the mine, near the shaft, is above the floor, and supported by 8 colossal pillars of crystal, each pillar being 30 yards long by 10 in breadth. Elsewhere the supporting pillars are 10 yards square, and 25 yards apart, and by means of them the mine, which is one vast subterranean hall, is divided into a number of chambers, called "drifts" or "runs," not exactly like streets, though apparently so, seeing that the separation is effected solely by the pillars, and that there is no continuity of wall."—*Grindon.* The main cutting in this mine, when illuminated with numberless farthing candles along its walls of rock-salt, is called by the miners "Piccadilly," and presents a fair resemblance to that thoroughfare with its lamps just lighted. For the customary farthing dip, in one Cheshire rock-salt mine, on a recent occasion, was substituted the experiment of the electric light, which lighted up the workings *like day*. The effect on the newly-quarried rock-salt was so fine that the applicability of the electric light to the illumination of salt-mines is considered thoroughly proved. But seen apart from these fortuitous lightings, the interior of a salt mine is not particularly striking; nor is the aspect of rock-salt itself usually of a very brilliant character, resembling more a piece of sugar-candy or smoked quartz. Sometimes it is mixed with earth or clay, although occasionally lumps of the clearest crystal are found.

"Rock-salt is often so pure and clear that it only needs grinding to convert it into snow-white culinary salt, as in Cheshire. More frequently it is coloured red and brown from admixture of clay and bitumen."—*Fownes.*

The *white salt*, which is shipped to all parts of England, America, and India, is obtained from the brine, which all over the salt dis-

tricts is generally found lying on the top of the rock-salt, the melting of which by the brine, together with the chasms caused by the pumping it up, creates those subsidences spoken of above. "The brine at Northwich does not rise to the surface. The rock-salt at Mr. Marshall's pit is 55 ft. below sea-level, and the depth at which the brine stands varies according to the number of pits at work. When in full work, the level will be lowered from 34 to 46 ft. below sea-level."—*Geol. Soc. Trans.* The brine, when pumped up, is taken by pipes to the salt-pans, which are shallow iron vessels of various size, the object being to expose as large a surface of the brine as possible to the atmosphere and the heat for evaporation.

The curious appearance of these ghostly salt-pans, the clouds of white vapour that issue from the brine, the weird figures flitting in and out of it, and the white crusts from the leakage of the pipes, give a melancholy and mysterious impression, which is quite peculiar to the salt manufacture. Under the pans are the furnaces, which supply the heat, and it is by the regulation of the temperature that the different kinds of salt are produced, the very coarse grained requiring a heat of 130° Fahr., and fishing-salt only 100°, so as to allow the salt to be deposited in large cubical crystals. For lump-salt a much greater heat is required, so as to cause quicker evaporation. The salt is then raked out and dried, and transferred into the flats to be taken down the river to Liverpool, to which port 721,423 tons were sent in 1867.

In addition to the salt mines and brine-pits, which employ a large population, Northwich contains docks, boat-building establishments, iron foundries, and various other accessories to a staple trade.

Rail to Altrincham, 13 m.; Acton, 4½ m.; Stockport, 22½ m.; Manchester, 21 m.; Middlewich, 6 m.; Crewe, 15 m.; to Winsford, 4 m.; Delamere Forest, 7 m.; and Chester, 17 m.

Crossing the bridge and ascending the steep hill on which Northwich Castle formerly stood, the visitor arrives at

1½ m. *Winnington*, formerly the property and residence of the family of that name, in the reign of Henry VIII. The village is now devoted to salt-works, and the hall is a boarding-school. In 1659 Sir Geo. Booth, on the part of the Presbyterian Royalists, was defeated at Winnington Bridge by the Parliamentary soldiers under Lambert.

On the other side of the Weever and the Trent and Mersey Canal is *Anderton*, of which a local proverb says, "There is in it neither beggar, cottager, nor ale-house, but a common without end, for that the common is circular, lying round about the township."

1 m. to the N. is *Marbury Hall*, the fine seat of A. H. Smith Barry, Esq. It was once the manor-house of the Marburys or Merburys in the time of Henry III., and was purchased by Lord Rivers of Rock Savage, whose daughter brought it by marriage to the Earl of Barrymore. The house (of red brick, with a stone corridor) overlooks Budworth Mere, the grounds running down to the water's edge. The interior contains a fine collection of paintings and statuary. So large and important a collection of Roman, and, in a few cases, Greek statuary, is seldom found in an English country-house. Amongst the collection is a figure from a missing portion of the procession round the pediment in the Elgin marbles. In the greencourt is an heroic colossal statue of Helios (?) with the influence of Lysippus. It is supposed to be a copy of some fine bronze colossus,

in which general breadth of treatment was all important. Notable also is a very interesting medallion bust, life-size in full relief, of Menander, in which head and shoulders project through a round ring very like a port-hole; on the ground by the right side of the head is the poet's scroll, and beneath, on the underpart of the frame, is the name MENANΔPOC in thin characters of late Greek period. This seems to be the fragment named by Visconti 'Iconographie Greque,' t. 6, which he afterwards deplored as lost: "Un petit medaillon en marbre que j'ai vu autrefois parmi les antiquités Farnésiennes à Rome," p. 107. Amongst the chefs-d'œuvre are:—

Vandyck, St. John, Virgin and Child. "The execution, in a warm tone, resembling Titian, is of great solidity." *Bonifazio*, The Marriage of St. Catherine. *Salvator Rosa*, "a picture erroneously called Christ on the Mount of Olives, but in Dr. Waagen's opinion representing the Angel announcing the Birth of Samson. The figures are disagreeable, and the colouring a heavy brown." *W. Canaletto*, Grand Canal. *Beltraffio*, a scholar of Leonardo da Vinci — an altar-piece, Virgin and Child, with St. John holding a chalice, a fine and important picture by a rare master. It was ascribed by Dr. Waagen to Beltraffio. Next to Beltraffio's picture in the Louvre, this is his most important work, and the most remarkable picture in this collection. It was exhibited in the Burlington House winter exhibition of 1878. *Lodovico Caracci*, St. Francis praying. *Velasquez*, Cupid with Birds and Ducks. *Le Sueur*, Holy Family. *Tintoretto*, St. Catherine, "slight, of very spirited painting." *Paris Bordone*, Virgin and Child. *Annibali Caracci*, the Cartoon for the Fresco in the Farnese Palace. *Vandyck*, Virgin in Glory, "admirably composed, of spirited motions, delicate colouring and keeping." *Rubens*, Three Amorini occupied with Harvest. *Gaspar Poussin*, Landscape with Waterfall. *G. Honthorst*, Christ being mocked. "Conception too realistic, but the execution in a warm tone, and careful." *Nich. Poussin*, Landscape. *S. Rosa*, ditto. *G. Honthorst*, Christ before Pilate by candlelight. A catalogue at hand, or an intelligent cicerone, is sadly needed here.

2 m. N.W. of Marbury is *Cogshall Hall* (T. Clark, Esq.), and 1½ m. N.E., on an eminence, overlooking the meres of Budworth and Pickmere, is the village of *Great Budworth*.

The *ch.* consists of nave, transepts, chancel, and aisles, the latter separated from the nave by pointed arches springing from clustered columns. The capitals of the columns, much too slender for their height, are ornamented with grotesque figures, unusual *inside* a ch. Outside the tower, in a canopied niche, is a figure of St. Christopher. In the chancel are some good oak stalls. The S. transept is a chapel belonging to the Warburtons of Arley, and contains an altar-tomb of red stone, with the mutilated figure of a knight. The N. transept contains monuments to the families of Brooke of Mere, Barry of Marbury, and Leicester of Tabley. There is a stained-glass memorial window to the late J. H. Leigh, Esq. The Cock Inn at Budworth is a famous old hostelry, mentioned by Drunken Barnaby in his Itinerary.

A little to the N. of Budworth is *Belmont*, and between Budworth and High Leigh is *Arley Hall*, the seat of R. Egerton Warburton, Esq., in very correct Renaissance style. Close to the hall is a pretty Dec. chapel, with a good stained-glass window. The celebration of May-day is still kept up at Arley by dancing round the May-pole and rustic sports upon the green,—a lovely piece of turf, sur-

rounded on two sides by an ancient timber building, now used as a school, and a range of dwellings for the schoolmaster, organist, and choir-boys. On the third side stands the chaplain's residence, while the fourth slopes down to the lake. A daily choral service is maintained, to which the public is freely admitted. Mr. Warburton is the author of a volume of hunting-songs which has passed through several editions. His son, Mr. Piers Warburton, is the present M.P. for Mid-Cheshire.

The West Cheshire Rly. runs from Northwich to Helsby Junc., passing the stations of *Hartford*, *Cuddington* (from whence there is a branch to *Winsford* and *Over*), *Delamere*, *Mouldsworth*, and *Manley*. Communication is thus afforded between the Salt districts and the Mersey.

The road from Northwich to Chester ascends a rather steep hill on the other side of the bridge, which was once the old Watling Street, and above which are the ruins of the old castle of Northwich. Pottery, coins of Nerva, Roman glass, &c., have been found on this brow. At 2½ m. the road crosses the London and North-Western main line at *Hartford*. There is a small inn here, and another frequented by hunting men during the season, at 3½ m. *Sandiway Head*, close to which is the entrance to the beautiful park of Vale Royal (Lord Delamere) (Rte. 17). At 5 m. a road on l. runs to Tarporley, and the traveller enters the district of *Delamere Forest*, the aspect of which is very different from that which it presented a few hundred years ago. Indeed, two centuries since, it contained 11,000 acres of wood, but the progressive steps of cultivation have gradually invaded it, and each year sees more cleared land and less of forest. A fine farm has been established on a very large scale, and with all the appurtenances of modern husbandry, by Mr. Leather, not far from the *Vale Royal Inn*, where the Chester 'bus halts no longer, having ceased running for want of support. "The Earls of Chester, being the local sovereigns of the county, held, after the manner of their royal superiors, the forests or chases in their own hands. In the forest or chase of Delamere are two elevated points on the side which overlooks the Mersey and the Vale of Chester — 'the New Pale,' enclosed in the 17th centy., and 'the Old Pale,' enclosed by virtue of a precept now remaining in the Exchequer of Chester, directed to John Done, in the eleventh year of Edward III., commanding him to make a 'chamber in the forest' for the preservation of vert and venison. In this pale is the site of a lodge which bears that name, and where the foresters occasionally resided. In 1617, it appears, by the account given of the progress of James I. through this county, that the chase or forest of Delamere contained 'no small store of deer, both red and fallow.' Both are now extinct, though the woody character of the forest remains"—*Shirley*. In very old records it was called the Forest of Mara in Mondrum, and extended almost to Nantwich. The Abbey of Vale Royal had the right of obtaining fuel; Chester Castle and the Dee Mills, of obtaining timber for repairs. The same privilege belonged to the burgesses of Frodsham; and the monks of the Abbey of St. Werburgh were allowed to appropriate part of the venison. The Act of Enclosure was passed in 1812, and at the present time there are not much more than 4000 acres of timber. But shorn as it is of its former glories, Delamere Forest is still a place of great enjoyment for the botanist and those who love the deep shady nooks of forest ground; and from the elevation of the land, overlooking the broad and fertile

vale of Chester, and the flat districts that border the Mersey, very beautiful and extensive views are gained on every side.

"But Delamere from thence his fancie quickly tooke,
Who shews herself all drest in most delicious flowers,
And sitting like a Queene, sees from her shady bowers
The wanton wood-nymphs mixt with her light-footed fauns."
Polyolb. xi. 132-5.

The highest point is to be found at *Eddisbury Hill*, which is interesting also to the archæologist, as being the site of an ancient fortress, said to have been erected by Ethelfleda, the daughter of Alfred, at the commencement of the 10th centy., but of which only a few rough stones remain. The camp in shape is nearly oval, and contains 11 acres. It is 250 yards in breadth, and 400 in length. The E. side is irregular, and defended by a natural escarpment, but the W., accessible by a gentle slope, was defended by a ditch or double rampart. It is easy to see that Eddisbury Hill must have been of considerable importance; indeed it gave the name to the Eddisbury Hundred. The Watling Street runs close by it on its way to Chester, and it is said that a line of road has been traced from hence to the rock at Beeston (Rte. 22).

Some 3 m. to the N. are two tumuli, called respectively *Glead Hill Cob* and *Castle Cob*, and there is one called the Seven Lows, about 1½ m. to the S. of the inn. The lakes or meres from which the forest obtained its name are in a great measure dried up or drained, though some remain, such as Oakmere and Flax Mere; but the names of Great Blake Mere and Linmere would seem to betoken that a much larger surface was once under water. To these may be added Hatchmere, of great botanical interest. Some curious old customs are mentioned in Ormerod's 'Cheshire' relative to the forest, one of which was the summons to the Hundred Court. The messenger bore a large oaken ball, perforated and slung on a leathern thong, the ends fixed on an iron bar. At the limit of the township he was met by another person, to whom he transferred the ball, and so the message was delivered throughout the district, somewhat after the fashion of the fiery cross. The pedestrian need not return to the inn by the same road as he went to Eddisbury, but can follow a path by Organ Dale, and through a very picturesque and sequestered portion of the forest, regaining the road about 1½ m. from *Kelsall*. A pretty ch. was built here in 1844.

1 m. to the S. is *Kelsborough Castle*, a British camp, defended by a rampart 14 yards thick at the base, and 300 yards in diameter. This was evidently one of the lines of defence between Eddisbury and Beeston.

The botanist will find much to interest him in the neighbourhood of Delamere. The following plants have their habitat here:—*Teesdalia nudicaulis*, *Draba verna* (Oakmere), *Saponaria officinalis*, *Hypericum elodes*, *Trifolium striatum* (Eddisbury Hill), *Galium verum* (between Northwich and Delamere), *Scutellaria minor*, *Utricularia minor* (Oakmere), *Villarsia nymphæoides* (Oulton), *Alisma ranunculoides* (Kelsall), *Calamagrostis stricta* (Oakmere — the only known British locality), *Aira caryophyllea*, *Lycopodium inundatum* (Oakmere), *Pilularia globulifera* (The Fishpool).

At 33½ m. *Tarvin*, where the road from Tarporley falls in. Prince Rupert was defeated in a skirmish with Sir William Brereton in 1645. The *ch.*, well situated at the top of the hill, has nave, chancel, side aisles and tower, and a chapel, called the Bruen chapel, which possesses a good Perp. window. The chancel has some oak carving, and a *brass* to Henry Hardware, 1584, twice Mayor of

Chester. "In the 27th year of Edward I., Walter de Langton, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, obtained a licence to impark his wood of Tervyn, contiguous to Delamere."

2 m. N. of Tarporley is *Peel Hall*, an old timber-and-plaster farmhouse.

1 m. S. is *Bruen Stapleford*, where at the time of the Reformation, lived John Bruen, a gentleman of great virtues and strong Puritan tendencies. His liberality was proverbial. Notwithstanding that he had the bringing up of his 12 brothers and sisters, besides 8 children by his first wife, 9 by his second, and 2 by his third—in all 19—he entertained once a week, in his large hall, not only the poor of his parish, but even those from Chester. His biography is told in 'A Faithful Remonstrance of the Holy Life and Happy Death of John Bruen, Esq.,' by the Rev. H. Hinde, Preacher of God's Word at Bunbury.

The traces of Roman occupation are seen in the straight road between Tarvin and Chester, and in the names of Stamford Bridge, Stretton, Walton, &c.

38 m. *Chester* (*Hotels:* Grosvenor, Queen's) (Rte. 23).

ROUTE 21.

FROM CONGLETON TO NORTHWICH, BY HULME AND MIDDLEWICH.

At the turnpike just out of Congleton, the road divides—to the rt. to Middlewich, to the l. to Sandbach. *West House* (J. Pearson, Esq.). At 3 m. it skirts the finely wooded park of *Somerford*, the seat of Sir Charles Shakerley, Bart. The house is of red brick, and very prettily situated on the banks of the Dane. A little to the N. is *Somerford Booths* (C. Swettenham, Esq.). The house was built in 1612, and still retains some Jacobean peculiarities in its gables and mullioned windows. The antiquity of this township is shown by the mention, in Domesday, of Sumreford—and by the family of Swettenham being settled here in the reign of Richard I. 5 m. rt. *Davenport Hall* (Mrs. Tippinge), the original seat of the Davenport family, a low building picturesquely placed, overlooking the Dane. Here the Davenports have been seated since the Conquest, commencing with Orme de Dauneporte. But the glories of the family are now centred in Capesthorne (Rte. 13). On the other side the Dane is *Swettenham Hall* (Mrs. Swettenham). In the Harleian MSS. is an account of the splendid stained glass that formerly existed in this house, decorated with the arms of the Swettenhams and Mainwarings.

[A little to the l. of the road, and passing Brereton Green, where a picturesquely gabled public-house bears the date of "1615. W. $^{B.}$ M.," and, by the instability of its superadded rough-cast, discloses a black-and-white timber-and-plaster house of the period, is *Brereton* (Mrs. Howard), a fine irregular old pile, built in 1586, by one of the family of that name. Inigo Jones was popularly supposed to have been the architect, but this could not have been, as he was not born till 1572, and 14 years would have scarcely sufficed to develop even his precocious genius. The family of Brereton were descended from Ralph de Brereton, in the time of the Conqueror; but not much was

heard of them until 1534, when a Sir William Brereton was actively engaged in Ireland during Fitzgerald's rebellion, and was rewarded for his services by being made Lord Justice. His son, created Lord Brereton, was the builder of the mansion, the first stone of which is said to have been laid by Queen Elizabeth. The second Lord Brereton was a firm Royalist, and was taken prisoner with his wife and son, at Biddulph Hall, in 1643. He was a man of scientific tastes, and was the founder of the Royal Society.

The front of the hall has wings terminating in gables, and two octagonal towers in the centre, connected at the top by a singular semicircular arch; the decorations of the Elizabethan bay windows are those of the rose and portcullis. In the interior, the dining-room has a frieze with the arms of the sovereigns of Europe, together with some curious inscriptions, of which the following is an example:—"Though thou be for thy pedegre accompted as auncient as Saturn, in wisdom as wise as Solomon, in power as mighty as Alexander, in wealthe as riche as Croesus, or for thy beautie as Flora, yet if thou be carries of religion, and neglect the true sarvice of the ever living God, thour art a caytife most vyle and miserable."

There is also some stained glass, and two or three bed-chambers and dressing-rooms with handsome marble mantelpieces, with the Brereton arms, notable for one supporter being a muzzled bear. The date on one of these is 1633, probably in the time of the second earl. An old painting of Queen Elizabeth, and a curious window with portraits, are said to have been moved to Aston Hall in Warwickshire, from whence it would be difficult to follow their transmigrations.

In the grounds of Brereton is a small pool, called *Bagmere*, the remains of a lake now drained. It was always supposed to show supernatural tokens at the decease of a Brereton heir, and is alluded to by Drayton:—

"That black ominous mere,
Accounted one of those that England's wonders make,
Of neighbours Blackmere named, of strangers, Brereton's lake,
Whose property seems farre from reason's way to stand;
For seen before his death that's owner in the land,
She sends up stocks of trees that on the top doe floate,
By which the world her first did for a wonder note."

Polyolb. xi. 90–6.

Mrs. Hemans also has a poem on Brereton and Blackmere, entitled 'The Vassals' Lament for the Fallen Tree.' Brereton to this day has a black and ominous aspect.

Brereton Ch. has nave, chancel, and side aisles, separated from the nave by four pointed arches resting on clustered pillars. The chancel is lofty, and has a good E. window. The interior contains monuments to Sir W. Brereton, 1618, and to William Smethwick and his wife Frances, 1643, who, according to the inscription, was "a devout and hospitable matron, who had lived in wedlock with him 58 years." The Smethwicks lived at *Smethwick Hall*, an old timber-and-plaster house a little to the S. of Bagmere. The hall was shut off by a screen from the passage, which traversed one side of the quadrangle and communicated with the offices—a common arrangement in old Cheshire houses. At Duke's Oak Farm, to the S. of Brereton Hall, is an old oak, from which the farm is named, the trunk of which will hold six persons.] The tourist will not mend matters by trying to shorten his walk by returning through the fields. Besides that this must be done with evident lack of licence, it leaves a doubt on the mind whether you are not still wide of the mark when you emerge near

Holmes Chapel Stat., whence it is best visited.

7 m. at Church Hulme, commonly called *Holmes Chapel* (*Inn:* Swan), there is a station on the Manchester branch of the London and North-Western Railway (Rte. 13). The *Hermitage* (Capt. Swetenham) is very prettily situated on the banks of the Dane, which flows to the N. of the village. Further on (rt). is *Cranage Hall* (L. Armistead, Esq.). The old bridge, which formerly crossed the Dane here, was built by Sir John Nedham, a judge in the reign of Henry VI. *Cotton Hall* is a timber-and-plaster farm-house.

10½ m. *Middlewich* (*Inn:* King's Arms) (Pop. 5693) was once, as implied by the terminal of the name, one of the Cheshire salt towns, though it has but little business now, the principal supplies being derived from Winsford and Northwich. The London and North-Western Rly. has a branch passing through Middlewich on its way from SANDBACH JUNC. to Northwich. There is little to see in the town, which is narrow in its streets and old fashioned in its houses. The *ch.* (of a warm New Red sandstone) has a pinnacled tower, nave, chancel, aisles, and chapels, formerly belonging to the Barons of Kinderton, and containing monuments to the Venables of Kinderton. The lover of old houses will find employment in the neighbourhood of Middlewich, which abounds with them. *Lea Hall*, 2 m. S.W., not far from Minshull Vernon Stat., was the residence of Dr. Fothergill, in 1796, who used to attend at the inn at Middlewich to prescribe once a week. He built a moat, with cock-pit and bowling-green, of which the traces are still to be seen. Charles I. is said to have once slept here. There is another old house, dated 1616, at Kinderton, which place is supposed to be the ancient Roman station of *Condate*. In 1643 the Parliamentary forces, under Sir William Brereton, were defeated close to Middlewich by the Cavaliers under Lord Byron. Theophilus Lindsey, a celebrated Unitarian divine, was born at Middlewich in the 18th centy.

The rly. to Northwich crosses the Dane and runs parallel with the old Roman road from Northwich to Nantwich, passing *Ravenscroft Hall* (E. Moss, Esq.), the old seat of the Croxtons, one of whom, Thomas Croxton, held Chester Castle for the Parliament in 1650. By the turnpike-road it is a pretty walk through a well-cultivated English bit of country.

12½ m. rt. *Bostock Hall* (Rev. Thos. France Hayhurst). The old house was moated, but pulled down in 1803. The original holders of this property claimed to descend from Osmerus, Lord of Bostock, in the reign of William the Conqueror. A member of this family was John de Bostock, surnamed Whetehampstead, Abbot of St. Alban's, and a celebrated chronicler of his day. An oak-tree, on Bostock Green, is said to mark the exact centre of the county.

On the other side the Dane (rt.) is *Whatcroft Hall* (D. F. Atcherley, Esq.). Passing through the pretty and well-cared-for village of Bostock, the traveller arrives at 15 m. *Davenham*. The Hall is the seat of J. H. Harper, Esq. The *ch.* contains chapels to the manors of Davenham, Bostock, and Leftwich. The village of *Shipbrook*, to the rt., is remarkable for having been settled by one of the Barons Vernon on his son Sir Ralph, who, from the extraordinary age of 150 to which he is said to have lived, is mentioned in law documents as "Sir Ralph the old." The road soon enters Northwich, 16½ m. (*Inns:* Crown, Anchor), passing under the viaduct of the Cheshire Midland Rly.

ROUTE 22.

FROM CREWE TO CHESTER, BY BEESTON.

(*London & North-Western Railway.*)

Quitting the Crewe Stat. (Rte. 13), the traveller takes the branch to the l., the great highway between London, Holyhead, and Ireland. None of the Irish through trains stop at the intermediate stations between Crewe and Chester.

3¼ m. *Worleston Stat.* In the neighbourhood are *Reese Heath Hall* and *Rookery Hall.*

6¼ m. *Calverley Stat.* To l. before reaching the stat. is *Wardle Hall*, an old timber-and-plaster farm-house, with a small portion of the moat left. To rt. of the stat. is *Calveley Hall*, where the present Duke of Westminster resided during his father's lifetime. 2 m. to the N. is *Wetenhall* village, the residence of the Wetenhalls in the reign of Henry I., who appointed Adam de Wetenhall governor of Carnarvon castle. The old hall, now a farm-house, is a curious gabled building of the date of 1630.

Between Calveley and *Beeston Stat.* (8¾ m.) on rt. is Tilston Fernall village and *Lodge* (Wilbraham Tollemache, Esq.). *Beeston* (*Inn:* Tollemache Arms, a clean, comfortable little country hostelry) is a favourite attraction for Cheshire holiday makers, who come hither to make a pilgrimage to *Beeston Castle*, 1½ m. to the l., to which there is a pleasant and delightful walk across the fields. Not only is the castle interesting in itself, but it is so beautifully placed, and in the neighbourhood of such a charming bit of country, that it is of itself worth a visit to Cheshire. It is situated on a very lofty and precipitous rock of New Red sandstone, which on the S. rises regularly, though very steeply; while the N. and E. sides form a sheer cliff 366 ft. in height. From the exceeding flatness of the country round, the cliff looks all the more prominent and even grand, and, as might be expected, commands from the summit a wide panorama in almost every direction. On the N. is Chester, and the estuary of the Mersey as far as Runcorn and the Frodsham Hills; to the E. are the high grounds of Delamere Forest, with the Derbyshire and Staffordshire hills in the far distance; S. are Clent and Rowley Hills, the Wrekin, and the ranges of the Welsh mountains about Oswestry; while westward are the picturesque and wooded heights of Peckforton. The plain is dotted with churches, halls, and villages, while the smoke of the salt districts around Northwich and Winsford, of the Potteries, of the engine factories at Crewe, and the distant clouds of Manchester and the Black Country, add interest to the scene.

Beeston Castle is supposed to have been built about 1220 by Ranulph de Blundeville, the 6th Earl of Chester, after his return from Palestine; but although it must have been pretty nearly impregnable prior to the days of artillery, its history is exceedingly barren. It played a small part in the Parliamentary War, and was dismantled in 1646. Extensive as the ruins are, embracing a circumference of at least a mile, there is very little to attract the archæologist, almost all the details being confined to the ditch that helped to make it unapproachable from the E. and S., the bastions, and connecting walls. The most striking portion is the

steep, narrow-pointed gateway, which faces the W. Within the keep, on the summit, is a deep well, which has been proved to extend downwards to Beeston Brook, 366 ft. The traditions of the country naturally pointed to this well as the receptacle of vast treasures, but, as is generally the case, they have turned out to be mere shadows. Facing the castle on the W., and occupying a magnificent site on the summit of a richly wooded hill, is *Peckforton Castle*, the splendid seat of J. Tollemache, Esq., whose ancestors acquired the lands of Peckforton and Woodhey by marriage with a daughter and heiress of the Wilbrahams, to whom the original grant was made by Henry VIII. The castle was built between 1842 and 1851 by the present owner, of warm red sandstone, in the Norm. style, from the designs of Salvin the architect, who has been most fortunate both in situation and picturesque effect. A lofty keep or round tower crowns the summit of the hill, and is a conspicuous mark for miles around. The interior, which may be seen on application when the family is absent, is remarkable for having its walls without paper or paint, but merely of the sandstone pure and simple. The gardens are charming. So are the lanes and walks all round the grounds at the foot of the hill; and the lover of woodland scenery cannot do better than walk to *Burwardsley*, through the woods under the N. side of the hill, about 2 m. Half-way is a timber-and-plaster farmhouse called Pensylvania, a very gem for a sketcher; or the walk may be extended from Burwardsley to the top of the Peckforton Hills, a charming breezy range, commanding all Cheshire, and back again on the S. side. The whole distance from Beeston Stat. would be from 8 to 9 m.

The archæologist should not omit to visit *Bunbury Ch.*, 2 m. to the S.E. of the stat., a fine old building of mixed Dec. and Perp. dates. It consists of nave, chancel (the oldest part), aisles, and the three chantries or chapels of Davenport, Egerton, and Spurstow, together with a massive tower. The Egerton chapel was built by Sir Ralph Egerton in 1527, but is now somewhat ruinous. In the interior of the ch. is a monument to Sir George Beeston, an admiral, who was concerned in the defeat of the Armada, and who died at the age of 102; also to another Cheshire hero, Sir Hugh Calveley, distinguished for his bravery in the reign of Edward III. He was not only a good soldier, but a good landlord, for he founded a college at Bunbury, which was dissolved by Edward VI. A grammar-school was afterwards established by Thomas Aldersey in the reign of Elizabeth, which, under a modified form, still exists.

It owes its regeneration to the energy of the late "preacher" of Bunbury, the Rev. W. B. Garnett-Botfield, of Decker Hill, Shiffnal, and of its headmaster, Mr. William Bailey. They originated a scheme by which the children of persons in any sphere of life could receive an excellent education on a scale of fees graduated according to their means. So well has this been carried out, that the sons of the neighbouring clergy and professional men are seen in the same schoolroom as the children of the villagers, while each one is specially educated for the vocation he is to enter.

[2 m. N. of Beeston is *Tarporley* (*Hotel:* Swan) (Pop. 7000) town on the high road between Chester and London. The *ch.* was restored in 1869, and the only portions of the old building now left are the tower and the chapel in the N. aisle; the restored portion taking in the nave and aisles up to the choir, the chancel having been rebuilt some time ago. There are some interesting

altar-tombs, one of which has two effigies—two females—of the name of Mary Crewe and Jane Done, the latter a member of the Done family, who held the office of Foresters and Rangers of Delamere. The visitor should see the large room in the Market Hall, adjoining the Swan, occupied by the Cheshire Hunt, which has its rendezvous at Tarporley. It contains portraits of Sir Peter Warburton and Mr. Smith Barry. 1½ m. N. is *Utkinton Hall*, an old house of the 17th centy., the seat of the Dones, a famous Staffordshire and Cheshire race, as appears above.

In the neighbourhood of the town are *Portal Lodge* (J. Brooks, Esq.), and *Arderne*, the handsome modern seat of the Earl of Haddington.

3 m. to the N.E. is the village of *Little Budworth* and *Oulton Park*, the seat of Sir Philip de Malpas Grey Egerton, Bart., who represents the elder branch of the family of Egerton.

Oulton, a huge mansion, said to have been built from the designs of Sir John Vanbrugh, stands in a lovely park, adorned with a fine sheet of water, and the largest lime-trees in Cheshire. "The park is an area of about 350 acres, with a herd of 300 fallow deer, and was enclosed with a brick wall about the year 1743." The name of Sir Philip Egerton is dear to geologists for the knowledge and skill which he has brought to bear on the subject of extinct fishes, and especially those of the lias and coal formation, many specimens of which are to be found in his museum at Oulton.

The fine collection of pictures includes the following:—The Entombment, after *Caravaggio;* Jesse and David, *Spagnoletto;* Head of Peter, *Guido Reni;* Head of Paul, *ditto;* Martha's Feast, *Rubens* and *Breughel;* Boar-hunt, *F. Snyders;* Landscape, *Breughel;* Landing of King Charles II. at Dover, *Lingelbach;* Cupid asleep, *Jackson;* Battle sketch, *A. Cooper;* The Cat disturbed, *Sir E. Landseer;* Sir Thomas More, *Mytens* (?); Earl of Strafford, *Vandyck;* Archbishop Laud, *ditto;* Archbishop Juxon, *ditto;* Lady Castlemaine, *Sir Peter Lely;* Duke and Duchess of Buckingham, *Sir G. Kneller;* Philip Egerton, *Gardner;* Lady Broughton, *Romney;* Sir J. Egerton, *Sir W. Beechey;* Lady Grey Egerton, *Sir T. Lawrence.* The collection of fine arts embraces a bust and a fine marble mantelpiece by *Bertolini*, enamels, majolica ware, porcelain, glass, medals, &c.

Within the park is a monument, with some exquisite carving, to the memory of Captain Egerton, the brother of Sir Philip, who fell in India in the attack upon Ferozeshah, during the Sutlej campaign.

From Oulton it is but a short distance to Delamere Forest, in which, indeed, Oulton Park was formerly included.]

13 m. *Tattenhall Stat.* The village lies 1½ m. to the l. On the rt., at the same distance, is *Lower Huxley Hall*, once the moated seat of the Clive family. In Ormerod's time about one-fourth of the quadrangular building remained, and over the gateway was a figure of St. George and the Dragon and the family arms. During the siege of Chester it was garrisoned by Col. Croxton. The Huxley family flourished in the time of Edward I., and married into that of Clive.

Between Tattenhall and Waverton on l. is *Hatton*, formerly in the possession of the De Hattons, of which family the celebrated "Sir Christopher" was a member. By marriage, the estate came into the possession of the Duttons. Sir Piers Dutton (temp. Henry VIII.) rebuilt Hatton in magnificent style, but on a petition of Sir John Done to the King, he was outlawed for some misconduct.

16 m. *Waverton Stat.* A custom existed in this parish that, on the death of every rector, a mortuary fee was paid to the Archdeacon of Chester. But the claim was found so oppressive that it was abolished in 1755. The Harleian MSS. contain a document permitting "the use of this place to Mr. John Tilston and the owners of his house, at Huxley, to bury, sitt, stand, or kneel in during divine service in Warton ch., 1640." 1 m. to the S.W. is *Saighton Grange*, an old manor-house belonging to the Abbots of Chester. All that is left is the gate-tower, to which a Jacobean house has been added. A little further on (rt.) is *Rowton Heath*, the scene of a battle fought in 1645, between the Royal forces under Sir Marmaduke Langdale and the Parliamentary troops, which Charles I. beheld from Chester walls. "Sir Marmaduke Langdale, being that night drawn on a heath 2 miles from Chester, had intercepted a letter from Pointz (who had marched a much shorter way, after he was informed which way the King was bound) to the commander that was before Chester, telling him that he was come to their rescue, and desiring to have some foot sent to him, to assist him against the King's horse; and the next morning he appeared, and was charged by Sir Marmaduke Langdale, and forced to retire with loss, but still kept at such a distance that the foot from before Chester might come to him. The besiegers began to draw out of the suburbs in such haste that it was believed in Chester they were upon their flight, and so most of the horse and foot in the town had orders to pursue them. But the others' haste was to join with Pointz, which they finally did; and then they charged Sir Marmaduke Langdale, who, being overpowered, was routed and put to flight, and pursued by Pointz even to the walls of Chester."—*Clarendon.*

Rowton Hall is the seat of Captain Currey.

Passing rt. the village of Christleton and *Christleton Hall* (Townsend Ince, Esq.), the rly. enters the general station at Chester (Rte. 23) (*Hotels:* Queen's, Grosvenor).

ROUTE 23.

FROM WHITCHURCH TO CHESTER, BY MALPAS.

This is no longer a cross-country rte., since the opening, in 1872, of the London and North-western's line of rly. from Whitchurch to Tattenhall. Leaving Whitchurch afoot (Rte. 12), the Shropshire border is crossed (2 m.) at the Ellesmere and Chester Canal, the road running N.W. to

5 m. *Malpas Stat.* (*Inn:* Red Lion), a quiet little sleepy hollow of 4 streets radiating from a common centre. There is nothing to see except the *ch.*, which is a fine and strikingly situated building of mixed Dec. and Perp. styles, and consists of nave and aisles, chancel and chapels, belonging to the Egerton and Cholmondeley families. These latter contain alabaster monuments to various members of these families, together with some stained glass and oak screens. From as early as 1285, Malpas parish has had two medieties, the Upper and Lower Rectories, and the story runs that a king, weather-bound at the village tavern, and falling in there with a genial curate, who was

loud in abuse of his absentee rector, was induced to divide the endowments of the living more equably; whence the Cheshire adage: "Higglety-pigglety Malpas-shot." At the Upper Rectory was born, in 1783, Reginald Heber, Bishop of Calcutta, who, as a boy, received his first education at the neighbouring school of Whitchurch.

Malpas was in Henry I.'s reign one of the most powerful baronies in England, in the person of Robert Fitzhugh, whose daughter and heiress Mabilla married William le Belward, and had a son surnamed David *Le Clerc.* His son Philip settled at Egerton, between Malpas and Cholmondeley, and thus commenced the noble family of which Sir Philip Malpas de Grey Egerton, of Oulton, is the elder branch; and the Ellesmere family, with the Egertons of Tatton, the younger.

Cholmondeley Castle, the seat of the Marquis of Cholmondeley, lies about 5 m. to the N.E. of Malpas, under the range of the Peckforton hills. A younger brother of the above-named David settled here, and his son took the name of Cholmondeley on being granted manorial rights by Randal de Blundeville, Earl of Chester. The castle is a modern Norm. building, finely placed on an eminence in the park, which is of considerable extent, and adorned with 2 or 3 small lakes. The interior of the castle contains some fine pictures by Rubens, Paul Veronese, &c., and a series of portraits by Kneller, Hogarth, and Sir Joshua Reynolds.

The old hall was once a very characteristic Elizabethan building: but alterations at the commencement of the 18th centy., and so-called improvements by *Vanbrugh*, entirely altered its former appearance.

Cholmondeley was the scene of a good many hard blows in 1643-44, Royalist and Parliamentarian succeeding each other as tenants, by force, with curious regularity.

"Sunday, 30th June, 1644, the Cavaliers marched towards Cholmondeley House, with 3 or 4 pieces of ordnance and 4 cases of drakes, where 2 Nantwich companies, volunteers, guarding the great piece of ordnance, met them; and, before break of day, they planted all their great pieces within pistol-shot of the house, and about 3 or 4 in the morning, after they had surrounded them, they played upon it and shot through it many times, and they in the house shot lustily at them with their muskets. The besiegers, playing still on them with their ordnance and small shot, beat them at last out of the house into their works, where they continued their valour to the utmost, themselves being few, killing 4 or 5 more of them, and Major Pinkney, a brave commander; but being too weak to hold out any longer, about one in the afternoon they called for quarter, which was allowed; and Mr. Horton, captain of the horse, let down the drawbridge and opened the gates, when the Earl of Denbigh, Colonel Booth, and the rest entered, and took the captain and all the rest prisoners, about 36, with their arms and provisions."—*Burghall's Diary.*

To the W. of Malpas, 4 m., is *Broughton Hall* (R. Howard, Esq.), and just across the Flintshire border is the village of Worthenbury. *Threape Wood*, close to the border, is mentioned by Nicholson as being formerly the great resort of those who had loved "not wisely but too well," and who procured for the population of Threape such a doubtful character that it became the abiding place of all who had reasons for keeping out of the way of the law.

From Malpas the Chester road runs N., leaving to the l. *Overton Scar*, a conspicuous hill in the undulating plain that bounds the Dee. Pass *Overton Hall* (D. Davies, Esq.),

an old-fashioned house; and l., *Edge Hall* (Rev. J. C. Wolley Dod).

10 m. *Broxton Inn* (and *Stat.*), a convenient roadside inn, from whence the Broxton and Peckforton hills, which terminate on this side in abrupt slopes, can be explored. The pedestrian who is not too ambitious as regards grandeur of scenery, may pass a very enjoyable day on these breezy downs, and may extend his walk to Peckforton and Beeston, some 8 or 9 m. *Broxton Hall*, once a seat of that family, and subsequently of the Egertons, is now a farmhouse.

[A little to the l. of Broxton, on the road to Holt, is *Carden*, the seat of J. H. Leche, Esq. This is one of the most beautiful examples of timbered mansions in the whole county, presenting, with its gable ends and Elizabethan windows, a most delicious irregularity and old-fashionedness. "The grounds lie under the higher range of the Broxton hills, but command, nevertheless, a rich and extensive prospect towards Chester and the Welsh hills. On the higher parts of the estate the rocks of Carden Cliff and the woods mingle together in the most picturesque manner, and below them lies the venerable mansion-house embosomed in timber."—*Ormerod.* The Cardens or Cawardens were seated here in the time of Henry III., and the property was brought into the family of Leche by marriage with one of their heiresses. Like most other Cheshire houses in this part of the county, Carden was garrisoned for the Royalists in the Civil War, and was plundered by the Parliamentary army.

3 m. further on is the village of *Farndon*, connected by a bridge of 10 arches across the Dee with the small Welsh town of *Holt*. Notwithstanding its decayed condition, it boasts of a charter, obtained by Thomas Earl of Arundel, in 1410, which gives it the right of being governed by a mayor, two bailiffs, and a coroner. The castle must have been a place of some strength, but only a mound and a foss now exist. Camden considered that a spot on the opposite side of the Dee was the Roman station Castrum Leonum.]

Continuing northward from Broxton, the traveller has on his rt. *Bolesworth Castle* (R. Barbour, Esq.), and on his l. the village of Coddington and *Aldersey Hall* (T. Aldersey, Esq.), whose family is said to have been settled here since the Conquest. Leland mentions some brine springs in this neighbourhood, but none have been worked in modern times.

Handley Church contains a good *brass* to the Venables family; and *Calveley Hall*, a little further on (l.), is now a farmhouse, with an oak staircase and wainscoted rooms.

The turnpike-road crosses the rly. at Waverton Stat., re-crossing it again near Christleton, and entering the ancient City of

CHESTER (*Hotels*: Queen, at the Station; Grosvenor, in the town; both first-class, but expensive). Pop. 35,701. *Post-office* in St. John Street. The rly. stat. is of great size, and serves as a central point for the Shrewsbury, Holyhead, Crewe, Mold, Birkenhead, and Manchester lines. The amount of traffic is consequently very large, and especially at race times, when more than 25,000 people have passed through in one day. The length of the façade and platform is 1160 ft. The cost was about 230,000*l.*, and the whole, with the adjacent Queen Hotel, forms a very fine pile of building.

Few, if any, towns in Great Britain attract so many visitors of all classes and tastes as does this ancient city; partly from its central position on the high road between London and Ireland, and partly from the numerous and various

objects of interest with which it abounds. The past and the present are here linked together to a degree that rarely exists in this country, unless, indeed, at "old imperial York," or still imperial London. Our knowledge, however, commences when the 20th Legion, styled Victrix, lay in garrison here previous to the year 60, a fact borne out by many coins and remains, discovered at different times. The Roman name of Chester was Deva, the city on the Dee (Setcia Æstuarium of Ptolemy), and it was also called Cestriæ and Castra Legionis, and, by the British, Caer Lleon, all names of the same signification. Holinshed considers that Ostorius Scapula was the founder; it is, however, certain that it gained a high reputation in the time of Agricola; and, while the Romans were here, much of the framework of the occupation of the county as it at present exists, and many towns, villages, and the roads leading to them (which we traverse without thinking they were Roman roads), were first established. Often a name, such as that of Arowry (Ἀρουρη, a ploughed land, though it may as likely be Welsh), near Hanmer, or the Striga Lane (from *striga*, a hollow way), near the same place, indicates their former presence. We should, however, accept a Roman in preference to a Greek etymology. When the legions withdrew from Britain, Chester suffered from the approach of the Saxons; and, in 607, Ethelred, King of Northumbria, devastated the town, and at the same time burnt the Christian monastery of Bangor Iscoed. Destroyed by the Danes in 894, Chester was rebuilt by Ethelred, Earl of Mercia, subsequently to which it is said that King Edgar made it a triumphal visit, his boat being manned by 6 subject kings, "whom he (thus toucht with imperious affection of glory), sitting at the sterne, compelled to row him over Dee to St. John's. William the Conqueror granted Cheshire, as a county palatine, to Hugh Lupus, with as much land to be added to his palatinate as he could win from the Welsh. A large portion, if not all, of the present county of Flint was thus included in it and is the only part of Wales surveyed in Domesday Book. Eight barons were created by the Earl Palatine, of whom the 7th was Gilbert Venables, Baron of Kinderton. The descendants of this worthy claimed to be called Barons of Kinderton as late as the last centy., and were so described, when serving in Parliament, in the Journals of the House of Commons. The Earl Palatine held sway until 1237, when Henry III. united the earldom to the crown, since which time the Prince of Wales has himself been created, by patent, Earl of Chester. In the reign of Charles I. the loyal city was besieged and forced to surrender after a determined resistance by the inhabitants, who held out for the king until famine drove them to terms. The first charter was granted to Chester in 1128, by Ranulph, the 3rd Earl.

At the time of the Domesday Survey, some curious customs existed—one being, that whenever the king visited the city he claimed from every ploughherd 200 capons, one vat of ale, and one *rusca* of butter, and that if any person made bad ale he was either to pay four shillings or sit in a tumbril or dung-cart. Chester had in those days a very considerable commerce; ships from Gascony, Spain, Ireland, and Germany, brought great quantities of wines and slaves—then a very prevalent trade—spices from France, and cloth from Flanders. In the charter of Henry VI., however, it is mentioned that there was a great decrease in the commerce through the choking up the channel with silt, which had driven away foreign merchants, and on this account 10*l.*

was remitted from the annual rent to the king, which reduction in 1506 was increased to 80*l.* per annum.

Chester, or West Chester, as it was then called, was long a seaport among those of chief importance in the kingdom. The Watergate is on the W. side of the city; and the Water Tower, now standing on the rising bank of a garden beneath the walls, shows where ships and vessels were moored in ancient days. Chester is still a port, and a considerable number of ships are built upon the riverside. Amongst others was the unfortunate *Royal Charter*, which was lost in Moelfre Bay, coast of Anglesea, in October, 1859.

The *form* and arrangement of the city is simple enough, four main streets intersecting each other, as was doubtless the case in its earliest construction. "It is built in the form of a quadrant, and is almost a just square; the 4 cardinal streets thereof (as I may call them) meeting in the middle of the city, at a place called the Pentise, which affordeth a pleasant prospect at once into all four."—*Fuller*. The centre of the town was marked by the *High Cross*, pulled down by the Parliamentary army in 1646.

The *Walls*, one of its most peculiar features, entirely surround the city at a height varying from 12 ft. to 40 ft., affording a very pleasant walk of nearly 2 miles, though, as the population has considerably increased, a large and important district is necessarily extramural. The entrance was by four principal *gates*—Eastgate, rebuilt in 1769 by the first Lord Grosvenor; Northgate, which was formerly used as the city prison; Bridgegate; and Watergate, rebuilt on the site of the old one. There were also supplementary postern gates, viz., the *Kailyard* Gates leading to the Cabbage Gardens, which once belonged to the Abbot of St. Werburgh; the *Shipgate*, which, says Pennant, "seems originally to have been designed for the common passage over the Dee, into the country of the Ordovices, either by means of a boat at high water, or by a ford at low, the river here being remarkably shallow." The *Newgate*, anciently called Wolf Gate, or Pepper Gate, was the scene of a curious local incident: "In the 16th cent. the mayor of the city had his daughter, as she was playing at ball with other maidens in Pepper Street, stolen away by a young man through the same gate, wherefore he caused it to be shut up, which gave rise to the saying, 'When the daughter is stolen, shut Pepper Gate.'"—*Fuller*. All these gates were confided to the guardianship of the valiant and wise heads of the noblest families, for foes threatened the city from every quarter, and vigilant watchmen ever looked abroad from its walls.

Besides the many objects of interest seen from the walls, they contain in themselves some valuable antiquarian remains, especially the *Phœnix Tower*, so called from its being marked with a Phœnix, the crest of the Painters' and Stationers' Company, the tower having been used as a chamber of business by various city guilds. From the summit, as the visitor is informed by the inscription, Charles I. had the grief of seeing his army, under Sir Marmaduke Langdale, defeated at Rowton Moor (Rte. 22), Sept. 27, 1645, by the Parliamentary force under Gen. Pointz. The sadlers had a special tower near the cathedral, which was taken down in 1780. The Ellesmere Canal flows underneath through a deep cutting in the New Red sandstone. Between the town and the Eastgate remains of Roman masonry are visible. "The walls enclose an oblong parallelogram, and most undoubtedly stand, for a large portion of their extent, on Roman foundations, as is undisputably proved by the remains of the E.

gate, discovered in erecting the present arch, and some relics of masonry still existing."—*Ormerod's* 'Cheshire."

At the N.W. angle of the walls is the *Water Tower*, projecting some little distance from the walls, and approached by a tower known as *Bonwaldesthorne's Tower*, from which there is an open embattled gallery, having below it a circular arch, beneath which the tide flowed previous to the embankment of the Dee. This portion of the walls was most fiercely attacked by the Parliamentary army, who bombarded it from *Brewers Hall*, a farmhouse (still standing) on the opposite side of the river. The Water Tower was built in 1322 by a mason named Helpstone for 100*l*., and still preserves marks of the mooring-place for vessels. It now contains a camera obscura and the museum of the Corporation. The Chester and Holyhead Rly. is carried underneath this angle of the wall.

The other mural curiosities are *Morgan's Mount*, near the Northgate, a platform with a chamber underneath, as though for a sentry station. *Pemberton's Parlour*, near the Water Tower, was formerly known as the Goblins' Tower. According to the inscription, well nigh obliterated, a portion of this was repaired, together with some of the wall, in Queen Anne's reign. The *Wishing Steps* are a flight of steps between St. John's Ch. and Bridgegate. With such a panorama as is afforded by the mountains of the vale of Clwyd, in which Moel Fammau is very conspicuous, the Dee, the plains of Cheshire, the distant manufacturing uplands of Mold, the hills of Beeston and Peckforton, and the ancient city for a foreground, the inhabitants may well feel pride and pleasure in their walls. Indeed, all visitors are inclined to endorse Dr. Johnson's sentiments when he observed to Miss Barnston, "I have come to Chester, Madam, I cannot tell how; and far less can I tell how to get away from it."

Perhaps the most striking feature in Chester, indeed, almost unique, and peculiar to it, are the *Rows*; according to Fuller, "a property of building peculiar to the city, being galleries, wherein the passengers go dry without coming into the streets, having steps on both sides and underneath, the fashion thereof being somewhat hard to conceive." Camden says of them: "The houses are very fair built, and along the chief streets are galleries or walking places they call rows, having shops on both sides, through which a man may walk dry from one end to the other." From their sheltered position, and the fact that the best shops are to be found in them, particularly in those of Eastgate and Bridge Streets, the visitor may expect to find the streets comparatively deserted, while all that is fashionable in Chester congregate in the Rows. They are in reality a continuous passage, as if originally formed by the cutting away the ground-floor rooms for public traffic. The same kind of building may be seen in country towns elsewhere, and it is nothing but a rude approximation to the mode of architecture in many towns in the north of Italy. That they may be a relic of the Roman arrangements, as is often supposed, is far from unlikely. In addition to the general old-fashioned appearance of the Rows, many of the houses show interesting examples of timber work and carving, including that particular style of ornamental plasterwork known as "pargetting," in which the patterns are raised or indented upon it. Many shops have been rebuilt in the same antique fashion, but there are still old timbered gable houses with their carving and ornaments as originally designed. One of these old *tenements*, lately restored, is

on the S. side of Watergate Street, and has, carved on a beam, "God's Providence is mine Inheritance, 1652," alluding to the time when the plague devastated the city, the inhabitants of this house being almost the only ones who escaped. Lower down is *Bishop Lloyd's* residence, 1615, of which the whole front is enriched with carvings of Scriptural subjects and armorial bearings. Of the former are Adam and Eve, Cain killing Abel, Abraham offering up Isaac, &c. Near this, again, is another ornamented house, known as the *Palace* of the *Stanley* family, 1591, occupying the site of a monastery of Black Friars. It is approached through a narrow passage, nearly opposite Trinity Ch., and is parcelled out into workmen's cottages. The *Yacht Tavern* was the temporary quarters of Dean Swift, who wrote on the windows the following sarcastic remarks on the cathedral body:—

"Rotten without and mouldering within,
This place and its clergy are surely akin."

In Bridge Street, opposite St. Olave's Ch., remains a portion of an old house where Charles I. was lodged, during the siege of Chester by the Parliamentary forces, which contains some good panel work and carving. There is also an old timber house, now a coffee tavern, known as the "Falcon," where in 1830 was discovered, on the premises of Messrs. Powell and Edwards, a crypt with E. Eng. doorway. The Lamb Row which adjoined it, and was remarkable for its antiquity, as being the residence of the family of Holme, famous as Cheshire antiquaries, fell in 1821. In the same street are antiquities of a still earlier date, viz., an hypocaust and remains of a Roman sweating bath, which were discovered in a cellar belonging to an earthenware shop in Bridge Street. A second crypt was cleared out in 1858, in Watergate Street, containing a good E. Eng. groined roof. It is supposed to have been the basement floor of some baronial mansion. A similar one remains in Eastgate Street.

The *Cathedral*, though not to be compared with many others in the kingdom, is nevertheless a venerable pile, an additional appearance of age being acquired from the character of the New Red sandstone of which it is built. One of the best views of it is obtainable from the city wall, on the S.E., catching three main features of the whole pile: the conical roof at the end of the S. aisle of the choir; the vast size of the S. transept; and the roof of the Lady Chapel at E. end of the choir.

A monastery was early erected here to St. Peter and St. Paul, which in the 10th centy. was called after St. Werburgh, by Ethelfleda of Mercia. St. Werburgh lies buried here:—

"In the Abbaye of Chestre she is shryned
rychely,
Pryores and lady of that holy place,
The cheyf protectryce of the said monastery,
Long before the conquest by devyne
grace."

Hugh Lupus changed the monastery into an abbey of Benedictine monks, in whose possession it remained until 1541, when the abbey of St. Werburgh became the cathedral church of the see of Chester, bestowed by Henry VIII. Its revenues at the Dissolution amounted to 1073*l.*—a large sum in those days. During the feast of St. Werburgh, a great fair was held, at which time the privilege of sanctuary was extended to every evildoer who was present at it. On one occasion during its continuance, Earl Randal, besieged by the Welsh in Rhuddlan Castle, sent for help to his constable at Chester, who, having no available forces, marched off to the rescue

with all the vagabonds who thronged the fair, and by the appearance of superior numbers put the Welsh to flight. Simon Ripley, Abbot from 1485 to 1492, rebuilt the nave, tower, and S. transept, which had become ruinous. "This can only mean that he greatly altered the nave, the main arches of which are Dec. of the 14th centy. The arches and upper part of the central tower are Perp., as are the clerestory and roof of the nave. The S. transept has, like the nave, Dec. piers and arches, with Perp. clerestory and roof. Nearly the whole of the exterior of the church was cased during the Perp. period; Perp. chapels were added at the end of the choir aisles, and Perp. tracery was inserted in many windows of earlier date."—*Handbook to Cathedrals.* The cathedral consists of nave with side aisles, transepts, choir, Lady Chapel, and central tower; the eastern portion being E. Eng., while the remainder is Dec. with Perp. alterations and additions. Great restorations have taken place in the nave. In place of a decayed wooden roof, its mid-space has a rich vaulting of oak, with an external roof above, newly leaded. The aisles have been vaulted in stone. The Perp. S. porch, the usual door of entry, has a parvise chamber above, lighted by double windows. But the best mode of approach is from the W., showing the peculiar descent by two successive flights of 4 steps from the level of the street outside to the floor of the nave, a feature very rare in English churches. The most striking feature in the interior is the exceeding length of the S. transept, which nearly equals that of the nave, and equals that of the choir. It also possesses side aisles, whereas the N. transept has none, and is, moreover, remarkably short. The great S. transept is the parish ch. of St. Oswald, having been set apart for that purpose by Earl Lupus in 1093. It has 4 bays with east and west aisles, "and resembles the nave in having an arcade of the 14th centy., with a clerestory and vaulting shaft of the 15th." Old people in Chester remember when, in 1827, Dean Copleston screened off this transept from the nave, and unintentionally spoiled the grand effect of this, till then, open and uninterrupted transept, as a part of the interior, with a view to render the services of St. Oswald's Ch. free from the interruption of the Cathedral organ. In the recent restoration this has been removed, and the grand proportions of this part of the interior are again free and open to view. Externally, the restoration of this transept in its E. and W. sides is completed, though its internal vaulting and reparation are left to future efforts. The interior of the nave is 145 ft. long. The main arcade is Dec., the capitals of the piers having Dec. foliage, and above it is a Perp. clerestory, which serves also the purpose of a triforium, as is the case in the choir at York. In the W. front is a fine Perp. window, the work of Abbot Birchenshaw. At the S.W. of the nave is the Consistory Court, occupying the N.W. tower, begun on the Norm. foundation, but never finished. The aisles are now vaulted with stone, as the monks doubtless meant to vault the whole church. On the outside of the N. aisle are six sepulchral recesses with Norm. mouldings. The choir, the restoration of which was begun by Dean Anson in 1844, and which is far more beautiful than the nave, is 78 ft. high, 125 ft. long, and contains very rich tabernacle work of the date of the 15th centy. from the organ-loft to the *Bishop's Throne*, originally the pedestal of the shrine of St. Werburgh. On the end of one of the finely carved stalls is delineated the Root of Jesse, a favourite subject with ancient carvers and glass-stainers. There is a good stone screen at the back of the

bishop's throne, on the upper part of which is a range of small images, supposed to represent the saints and kings of Mercia, who were connected in any way with St. Werburgh. It was restored by Canon Slade in 1846, in memory of Bishop Law. The great feature of the change in Chester Cathedral is, that what was once subdivided and dwarfed by being choked up, is now one free, open, stately, and diversified interior. Before 1868 the wood-work of the choir had been brought over the crossing under the tower to its western side, and the arches forming the western extremities of the aisles of the choir were closed up with wood and glass. By the reparation a free view is gained of the choir and nave aisles. The organ was judiciously disposed, and the whole space under the tower allowed to be unbroken and continuous. With the dark and very rich stall-work for a foreground, the eye ranges along the lofty main arcade, crowned by its peculiar triforium and high clerestory. The old Norm. choir was much shorter than the present one, and terminated in an apse. The general work of the choir is E. Eng., observed in the 5 bays, and E. Dec., the latter principally seen in the triforium and clerestory, the windows of which are now filled with correct tracery; pinnacles, parapets, and flying buttresses having been added. Notice the corbels of the vaulting shafts on the S. side, sculptured with grotesque figures; one representing Samson rending the lion. The E. window is by *Wailes*, and represents subjects connected with the Crucifixion. There is a fine reredos of mosaic by *Blomfield*, with Scriptural subjects, in 5 panels. The choir aisles originally terminated in apses, but this was altered in the 15th centy., when chapels were added instead. In the E. chapel of the N. aisle is a monument to Bishop Graham. The stained glass windows of the aisles are by *Clayton and Bell*, *Wailes*, and *O'Connor*. A vestry, used as a music-school, contains a press with elaborate 13th-centy. ironwork. The windows of the S. choir aisle are by *Hardman* and *Wailes*. Notice the vaulting of this aisle, which contains also some sepulchral recesses with stone coffins having wheel-crosses on the end, probably graves of some of the abbots. An altar-tomb of the 15th centy., which retains the gilding and colour on one side, is ascribed to Henry IV., Emperor of Germany, who was obliged to abdicate in 1103, but who, Browne Willis notes, deceased at Spires in Germany, and was buried there. The *Lady Chapel* of 3 bays, has some good memorial and E. E. windows. The S. aisle, which joins the Lady Chapel, used to extend 2 bays further to the E., with a turret of modern construction beyond the choir, and a huge buttress to the S., near its eastern extremity. This buttress was a vain attempt to arrest a dangerous structural tendency to fall, and the removal of it revealed that the aisle, before its E. addition, terminated in an apsidal form, as also that the singular conical roof (now restored) had once existed there. It was decided to revert to the form which it presented in the early 13th centy. It is singular that, at the restoration of the chapel, it was found to have been built without any foundation whatever; but it has now been underpinned. The E. window, of 5 lancets, was designed by *Sir G. G. Scott*. The roof was beautifully coloured and some medallions added by *Mr. Hudson* in 1855. Here was held the Consistory Court which condemned George Marsh to be burned at the stake in Queen Mary's day. The central tower is supported by 4 massive piers, which doubtless performed the same office in the Norm. church of Hugh Lupus. One conspicuous improvement is the great chandelier

suspended under the tower, for which Hereford Cathedral suggested the first idea, in its Corona. Some of the details are suggested by metal-work in Milan Cathedral. There is some doubt whether the heat may not be injurious to the organ. To the N. of the nave are some tombs, where the early Norm. abbots were interred. In the N. transept, which contains some fragments of the old Norm. triforium, is a curious needlework picture, representing Elymas the Sorcerer; also the modern tomb of Bp. Pearson, who wrote 'The Exposition of the Creed,' 1686, with his effigy surmounted by a fine metal canopy by *Skidmore*. This late tribute to the memory of a most profound divine was partly suggested by Dr. Whittingham, Bishop of Maryland, U.S. The most interesting part of the whole edifice is the *Chapter-house*, which contains beautiful E. E. window-pillars, and is entered by an E. Eng. vestibule of rather continental architecture. Here are placed a number of casts and a portion of a stone coffin, discovered in 1723, and supposed to be that of Hugh Lupus, who was reinterred here by his nephew, Randal, Earl of Chester; but from the wolf's head on it and the initials, it is evidently that of Abbot Ripley. There is also a stone with a Roman inscription. The Chapter-house is a parallelogram in form, of 3 bays, and very beautiful E. Eng. architecture. In it is contained the Library, the principal curiosity of which is a MS. Bible of the 12th centy. The cloisters are of good Perp. work, and their S. side has been rebuilt by Sir Gilbert Scott. "The unusual position of the cloisters and of the monastic buildings on the N. instead of the S. side of the nave, was probably owing to a grant of land having been made in that direction, while the boundary of the abbey was narrower on the S." At the S. end of the W. wall are remains of "carrels" or chambers for study. Opening from the W. is a vaulted Norm. chamber, supported by massive pillars. This apartment (which is only dimly lighted from the cloisters) is considered by some antiquaries to have been a promptuarium, or buttery, while others believe it has been an entertaining hall, where the abbots dispensed their hospitality. From the N. wall of the cloister opens out the refectory by a very graceful E. Eng. doorway. It lately formed part of the King's Grammar School, and contains one of the finest specimens of lector's pulpit with staircase, that exists in England, the only one like it being at Beaulieu in Hampshire; a doorway in the E. wall led to what was probably the dormitory. The *Abbey Gate* possesses a good 15th-centy. arch, above which is the Bishop's Registry. Amongst the bishops of the see of Chester were *George Coates*, in whose episcopate George Marsh, 'the martyr,' was burned; *John Bridgeman*, father of Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Chief Baron of England; *Brian Walton*, author of the famous Polyglott Bible; *John Wilkins*, of the Royal Society, and *John Pearson*, author of 'The Exposition of the Creed.'

The antiquary will find in the extramural *ch.* of *St. John* sufficient to repay a visit, even if Chester contained nothing else. It may be reached by passing through the city wall by Newgate. Its foundation dates from Saxon times (end of 7th centy.), and with the early Norman kings it became the Cathedral Church of the centre of Episcopal jurisdiction at Chester. A local legend says that King Ethelred "was admonished to erect it on a spot where he should find a white hind." The remains of a fresco on one of the Norman arches illustrate this legend, as was noticed at the visit of the Cambrian Archæo-

logists to Chester. It was formerly collegiate, and a cruciform ch. of great magnificence, consisting of nave, transepts, choir, side aisles, and a central tower, which, however, fell in 1574, and carried with it the choir, the present chancel occupying the space under the old tower, and the E. end of the nave. The ch. has been since restored by *Hussey*, and the hideous pews and obstructions removed. Notice particularly the massiveness and dignity of the early Norm. pillars, 5 ft. 6 in. in diameter, which separate the nave from the aisles. Also, above them, the unique double row or triforium of arches, springing from light shafts. There are some Norm. blocked piers in the chancel, on each side of which a chapel was added at a subsequent period. The one to the S. of the communion table contains a curious medallion, and skeleton monument. The entrance on the N. side is through a splendid Pointed doorway, close to which, but detached from the remainder of the ch., rises the belfry, a square tower of New Red sandstone, 150 ft. in height. It is worth while ascending to the summit for the sake of the view over the city and river. Outside the E. end of the ch. are the picturesque ruins of the original chancel, or Lady Chapel, the exquisite Norm. arches of which still attest its former beauty.

King Harold is said to have retired to Chester after the battle of Hastings, and dwelt in a small cell on the S. wall of this ch.-yd. It is gratifying to think that the energetic movement of the townsfolk, headed by the liberality of the Duke of Westminster, swept away the abominations that twenty years ago encumbered St. John's, and restored it as such a splendid example of early architecture deserves. Grosvenor Park, a very pretty public promenade given to the town by the Duke of Westminster, adjoins St. John's Ch. It contains a marble monument of the 2nd Marquis by Thornicroft.

St. Peter's Ch. is also believed to have been founded by Ethelfleda of Mercia; it does not, however, contain much of interest. It is placed in the very centre of the city, where the 4 streets meet—"the Pentise" of Fuller—which Pennant considers to have been the site of the Roman prætorium. It is related that, on the occasion of the rebuilding of the steeple in 1479, the parson and churchwardens ate a goose at the top of it, and flung the bones into each of the 4 main streets.

St. Mary's Ch., near the castle, was founded about the 12th centy. The S. aisle was built by William Troutbeck of Dunham, in the 15th centy., and consequently called the Troutbeck Chapel. St. Mary's is remarkable for its very low tower, which was the result of the caution of the governor of Chester Castle, that it should not command the castle yard. Inside is the monument of Thomas Gamul, Recorder of Chester, 1613, with alabaster figures of his wife, son, and daughters, holding skeletons in their hands; also an altar-tomb to Philip Oldfield of Bradwall, 1616, habited in a dress of the period. There is a painted window to the memory of those of the 23rd Fusiliers who fell in the Crimea, and one to a late rector and antiquary, the Rev. W. H. Massie.

Trinity Ch., in Watergate Street, rebuilt in very good taste, 1869, contains the graves of Mathew Henry, the commentator and Nonconformist, and Parnell, the poet, Archdeacon of Clogher (died 1718), whose family was connected with Congleton, in this county. The other churches are *St. Michael's*, in Bridge Street, restored in 1850, to which is united the ch. of St. Olave's, not now used. *St. Bridget's*, is a new ch. near the

castle, that superseded the ancient ch. of St. Bride. *St. Oswald's Ch.* is identical with the S. transept of the cathedral. Other churches are St. Thomas', Parkgate Road; Christ Church, New Town; St. Barnabas', City Road; St. Paul's, Boughton; and Holy Trinity, Saltney.

The *Castle*, as it at present stands, is an extensive Grecian edifice, with a Doric temple for an entrance, and not a single feature of a castle. The building which preceded it was originally a Norman (Hugh Lupus), or perhaps a Roman fortress. The wings form a military barrack, while the centre contains the assize court and county gaol. It is used for military purposes, a detachment of soldiers being usually stationed here and a large stand of arms kept, the object of a foolish Fenian raid in 1867, which was fortunately frustrated. Before the Castle Gate stands the equestrian statue of Lord Combermere. Only one portion of the old building is left, a square tower, called Cæsar's or Julius Agricola's Tower, used as a powder magazine. Within it is a chapel with a vaulted and groined roof. From its commanding position on the Dee, the Castle is an important feature in Chester views.

Beyond the Castle the Dee is crossed by the *Grosvenor Bridge*, remarkable for the wide span (200 ft.) of its stone arch, the architect of which was the late *Mr. Harrison*. Across it runs the road to North Wales, and immediately on the opposite bank is a pleasant suburb, called Curzon Park. Both bridge and walls command a fine view of the *Roodee*, or Roodeye, famous in legendary lore for the story of the Virgin Mary's image falling on Lady Trawst, the wife of the governor of Hawarden, and killing her, when she was importunate in her prayers for rain; and being thereafter found guilty of wilful murder, and laid on the beach at low water. The image was carried by the tide to where she was found under Chester walls. As she was "Holy Rood," she was buried where she was found, with a stone cross over her, and the inscription—

> "The Jews their God did crucify,
> The Hardeners theirs did drown,
> Because their wants she'd not supply,
> And she lies under this cold stone."

It is also famous in the annals of horse-racing, as being the ground on which the Chester Cup is annually run for. In 1540 a bell of silver, of the value of three and sixpence, or more, was annually given by the Sadlers' Company "to him who shall run the best on horseback." This arrangement was subsequently changed, and it was decreed that "that horse which with speede did over-runne the reste had the beste cuppe then presently delivered, and that horse which came seconde, next the firste, before the reste, had the seconde cuppe then also delivered." The course is about a mile round; and, with the ancient city walls and the rising ground across the river girdling it, it forms a most beautiful amphitheatre, presenting, with the enormous masses of people gathered to see the races, the only sight capable of being compared with a Roman spectacle. But the course is too small for the stride and number of thorough-bred horses that are brought to run in particular races, and bad accidents have been of too frequent occurrence. Nevertheless there is no finer English scene than the Roodee at the period of the Cup race in May.

The other points of interest for the visitor to Chester are the *Exchange* and Town Hall in Northgate Street, forming parts of a new and exceedingly handsome building, erected in 1869 and opened by the Prince of Wales, and the *Music Hall*, built on the site of the ancient chapel of St. Nicholas. Mysteries and pageants were at one time, as at Shrewsbury,

a great feature in Chester life, and during Whitsun week a succession of brave sights was enacted for the delight of the spectators in the Rows. Ralph Higden, a monk of Chester, composed Mysteries in Latin in 1327, and procured permission from the Pope to exhibit them in England. A thousand days of pardon were allowed by the Pope and forty days by the Bp. of Chester, to all who attended the representations. Two centuries later Mysteries were still acted by the trading companies of the city. "Every company had his pagiante or part, which pagiantes were a highe scaffolde with 2 rowmes, a higher and a lower, upon 4 wheeles. In the lower they appareled themselves, in the higher rowmes they played. being all open on the tope, that all beholders might hear and see them. The places where they played them was in every streete. They began first at the Abaye gates, and when the pagiante was played, it was wheeled to the High Cross, before the Mayor, and so to every streete." Giants in pasteboard were favourite objects of representation, and a curious entry is mentioned in Hone's 'Every Day Book':—"For arsnick to put into the paste to save the giants from being eaten by the rats, one shilling and fourpence." Mysteries were finally abolished by the Corporation in 1678. The *Blue Coat School* is just outside the walls at the Northgate. The S. wing is occupied by the chapel of St. John, commonly called Little St. John, founded by Randal, Earl of Chester, for 13 citizens, "either poor or sillie, or poor or feeble persons.'

1 m. S.E. of the city, at *Boughton*, overlooking the Dee, is the spot where George Marsh the Lancashire martyr was burned at the stake for preaching the reformed doctrine in 1555.

Railways.—To Manchester, 40 m.; Crewe, 21 m.; London, 187 m.; Birkenhead, 16 m; Holyhead, 84 m.; Wrexham, 11 m.; Holywell, 18 m.; Llangollen, 24 m.; Shrewsbury, 42 m.; Mold, 13 m.; Bangor, 60 m.

Distances.—Beeston Castle, 10½; Carden, 11; Malpas 15; Tarporley, 10; Tarvin, 5½; Delamere Forest, 10½; Northwich, 17.

[A visit should be paid to *Eaton Hall* (3 m.), the magnificent seat of the Duke of Westminster. It is shown to the public in June, July, and August, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.; to foreigners only on Thursdays. Tickets are to be purchased at fixed prices in Chester, at the hotels and booksellers' shops. The proceeds go to the charities of Chester. The chief entrance is by the *Grosvenor Lodge* (a handsome building designed after St. Augustine's gateway, Canterbury), which is but a short distance from the Grosvenor Bridge. From hence a drive of 3 m. runs through the well-timbered park to the Hall. The old Hall was one of the most magnificent seats in Britain; but the style, florid ecclesiastical Gothic, was a mistake. It was adopted before Gothic was well understood; and, although nearly a million was expended on it, the result was not satisfactory, and it has been nearly rebuilt by the present Duke, from designs by Waterhouse of Manchester. The entrance is under a fine portico on the western front, but the eastern side is the most beautiful, a cloister extending the whole length between the dining and drawing rooms, and leading to a terrace 350 ft. long.

"The plan of Eaton Hall, as it now stands, is beautiful and in perfect arrangement. The hall, in the centre of the house, is octagonal, 75 ft. long by 30 to 40 broad. On each side of it, at the end furthest from the entrance, are two doors leading one into the ante-drawing room, the other into the ante-dining room, each

lit by 3 large windows, and 33 ft. long; fine, well-proportioned rooms. These lead to the drawing-room and dining-room respectively, which are ingenious in shape and design, having each 2 oriel windows, three others, and a large bay. This completes the E. side. The S. is occupied by the end of the drawing-room and a vast library—all *en suite;* the library being lighted by 4 bay windows, 3 flat ones, and a fine alcove. The rest of the main building to the W. contains billiard and smoking-rooms, waiting-hall, groom of chambers' sitting and bed-rooms, a carpet-room and staircases. This completes the main building, whence a corridor leads to the kitchen and cooks' offices. This corridor, passing over the upper part of the kitchen, branches off into two parts; one a mansion for the family and private secretary, another leading to the skilfully planned stables. The pony stables, carriage-horse stables and those for the riding-horses occupy different sides, with rooms to match, through these, for livery, saddle-grooms and coachmen. Easily approached, though in another building, are laundry, washhouse, gun-room, and game-larder; and the whole building, extending 700 ft. in length, is a model of compactness."—*Rimmel's 'Dee,'* pp. 136–8.

The E. front opens on a terrace, 350 ft. long.

Amongst the works of art are: in the chapel—the Descent from the Cross (after Rubens), by *Weiser;* St. Michael and the Dragon (after Guido), by *Evans.* In the dining-room—the Meeting of David and Abigail, *Rubens;* the Judgment of Paris (after Rubens), by *Peters.* In the saloon—Frescoes of Spanish scenery. In the drawing-room—the Wise Men's Offering, *Rubens;* the Battle of the Boyne, *West;* Battle of La Hogue, *West;* Christ and the Woman of Samaria, *Mignard;* Antiochus and Stratonice, *Pietro da Cortona.*

There are also many family portraits, by *Lely* and others, and statues and busts, by *Westmacott,* &c. In a long corridor are portraits of the racehorses which have belonged to this family for more than 100 years, famous on the turf.

The library contains the Corporation Charter of Chester Cathedral, by Ranulph, Earl of Chester; a copy of the Chronicles of Henry of Huntingdon; and a transcript of the record known as 'The Cheshire Domesday.'

The grounds are of great beauty, and are partly laid out as a pinetum. In the garden—unless now in the City Museum—is a Roman altar, found at Chester, and inscribed "Nymphis et fontibus;" also a Greek sacrificial altar, brought by the Marquis of Westminster from Delphi.

The Dee is crossed nearly opposite the village of Aldford by a light suspension-bridge, erected by the Marquis of Westminster in 1824.

Eccleston Ch. is a pretty cruciform ch., containing a painting by *Westall,* the subject being Joseph of Arimathea begging the Body of our Saviour. Ralph Lowndes, a rector of Eccleston, in 1685, was deprived of his living for refusing the oaths, and continued a nonjuror till his death. The ch. is the burial-place of the Grosvenor family, by whom it was beautifully restored from designs by *Porden.* In old days, when salmon were plentiful in the Dee, the Rector of Eccleston, whose rectory stands in pleasant grounds surrounded by Eaton Park, had the right of obtaining every 20th fish. The Grosvenor family claims the serjeantry of the Dee, but the only privilege used is that of providing the ferry-boat and receiving the tolls. This serjeantry was originally given to Robert de Eton, from Eton Weir to Arnoldsheye (a rock opposite Chester Castle), by the service of clearing the river

from all nets improperly placed there —"and to have tolle from every flote at Eton passing his weir, de primâ Knycke unum denarium qui vocatur hache penny et de quâlibet Knycke sequente unum quadrantem, and to have waifs and wrecks on his manor of Eton, and two still nets and two free boats on Dee."—*Harl. MSS.*

The visitor may, if he prefer, go by water from Chester to Eaton Hall, the distance from St. John's Ch. being 6 m. The charges are very moderate, and vary according to the size of the party, and consequently of the boat.

The small portion of Cheshire that lies on the W. bank of the Dee can best be visited by the Great Western line to Shrewsbury, which quits the Holyhead Rly. at *Saltney*, and turns abruptly to the S. The Denbighshire border is crossed at *Pulford Stat.* Here was once an abbey of Cistercians, founded by Robert Pincerna, brother of the Earl of Chester, in 1153. It had but a brief existence, for the irruptions of the Welsh made it such an unpleasant residence for the monks, that they were transferred to Dieulacresse in Staffordshire. The order for removal was said to have been given in a dream to Earl Randal Blundeville.

There are scarcely any traces of the castle of the Pulfords, the site of which is close to the ch., on the bank of the brook that divides Cheshire and Denbighshire. Between Pulford and the river is *Lache Hall*, the old seat of the Manleys, of Monksfield, which was garrisoned by Sir William Brereton, who made it his headquarters during the siege of Chester. *Dodlestone*, to the W. of Pulford, was the property of the Boydells, who had a castle here, the site of which was subsequently occupied by a house built by the Manleys. Both have long since disappeared. The ch. was given by Alan de Boydell to St. Werburgh in Chester in the reign of King John. It contains a monument to Thomas Egerton, Lord Ellesmere, Lord Keeper, who lived at Dodlestone Hall in the 16th centy.

The boundaries of the parish were marked by a series of wells, which used to be cleaned out by the parishioners in their perambulations. A curious entry exists respecting the well on Dodlestone Moor, 1642—"This year the Curate of Gresford, with some of the parishioners, having come for divers yeares to Moor Well, some of them over the Moor, and some of them through Pulford parish in procession, saying that they were sent thither to claim that well to be in their parish, and now this yeare when they were in the Moor, they saw some soldiers standing by the well, which wanted to see their fashions, on which the said Curate and his company went back again, and never came again to the well."

1½ m. to the W. of Dodlestone is *Kinnerton Hall*, an old gabled farmhouse, in Edward III.'s time held by the Boydells.

ROUTE 24.

FROM CHESTER TO WARRINGTON, BY FRODSHAM.

The *Cheshire Junction Rly.*, which is the nearest rte. from Chester to Manchester takes a north-easterly course from the general stat., having on l., 1 m., *Hoole Hall* (A. Potts, Esq.), *Hoole Bank* (P. Ewart, Esq.), and on rt. the village of *Guilden*

Sutton, formerly called Golden Sutton. *Hoole Heath* was one of the three sanctuaries for criminals permitted by the Earls of Chester within the Palatinate.

2½ m. l., at *Mickle Trafford*, Sir William Brereton placed a garrison for the king during the siege of Chester, taking advantage of a pass through which the turnpike-road to Frodsham runs.

On rt. is *Plemstall Ch.* It is of the date of Henry VIII. and has a nave, chancel, and N. aisle; at the E. end of which is a chapel of the Trafford family. "Adjoining the pulpit are some brilliantly coloured figures in a kneeling position, of Thomas Smyth and 'Marget hys wyf,' with 7 sons and 4 daughters." Underneath the E. window on the outside is a raised monument, the sides carved with skeletons.

5½ m. *Dunham Stat.* On rt. is *Wimbold Trafford Hall* (Rev. G. Perryn). On the l. the country, hitherto flat and uninteresting, becomes broken and picturesque, with knolls and wooded escarpments. They form the western and northern boundaries of the Forest of Delamere, and as they approach Helsby and Frodsham become developed into a fine range of abrupt hills, which are landmarks over all Cheshire and South Lancashire, and command very wide panoramic views.

At. 7½ m., HELSBY JUNC., a line is given off to l., affording to Warrington and Manchester the advantage of a short cut to Birkenhead, without necessitating the détour by Chester; also another, called the West Cheshire, connecting the Mersey with Northwich and the salt districts (Rte. 20). *Helsby Hill*, surmounted by a camp, is the first of this series of bluffs that command the Mersey, and the pedestrian cannot do better than ascend it, and continue his excursion along the chain to Frodsham. In this hill, of which the sand-stone is very soft, are several caves, one of them used as a stable. 1 m. to the S. of Helsby is the village of *Alvanley*, which gave the title of Lord Alvanley—Lord Alvanley was the famous wit and bon-vivant, who figures so largely in the Greville Memoirs—(extinct in 1857) to the family of Arderne. Ormerod says that the Ardernes of Alvanley were the only house in the Hundred of Eddisbury who have held their estates in the direct male line for nearly six centuries. The *ch.* stands on the site of a chapel founded by Catherine Arderne (temp. Henry VI.); close to it stood the castle of the Alvanleys, now represented only by a trace of the moat. The whole of the scenery of the pass between Alvanley and Frodsham is highly romantic.

[From Helsby to Hooton, on the Birkenhead line, the distance is 9 m. over flat alluvial country on the banks of the Mersey.

2 m. *Ince Stat.* From the low elevation of the land, and the name of Ince (Ynys, Insch, or Innis-island), it is evident that the rocky projection on which the village is situated was once surrounded by water. The abbots and monks of St. Werburg, Chester, to whom this manor was given by Hugh Lupus, complained that in Wyrral and their manor of Ynes, they had lost by inundations of the sea 30 carucates of land, and were daily losing more. They also laid claim to the manorial right of "wrecum maris," or seawrack, three miles further from the sea than could possibly be the case now. Indeed, for more than that distance, the soil of the valley, a yard below the surface, shows the same grey sea-sand as the ground which has been recovered from the Dee by embankment.

The old manor-house of the abbots

(now a farmhouse) was originally fortified and defended by a stone wall and moat, hewn out of the solid rock. The barn was probably the abbots' hall, and still contains some square-headed windows within elliptical arches. The *ch.* (restored in 1854) has a very conspicuous and handsome tower. The manor, which after the Dissolution passed successively into the possession of the Cottons, the Cholmondeleys, Wynnes, and Warings, at present rests with E. W. Yates, Esq., who resides at *Ince Hall*, a modern Italian building, close to the river-side. On the l. of Ince stat. is *Elton Hall*, now a farmhouse, but once the seat of the Frodsham family. It is of the date of the 17th cent.

Thornton Hall (1 m. S.W.) was the old moated residence of the family of Le Roter. The *ch.* consists of nave, chancel, and aisles, the N. aisle being erected as a chapel by the Frodshams of Elton. It contains a piscina with trefoil arch under a canopy, and some monuments to the Gerard family and that of the Bunburies of Stanney. One of the early rectors was Bernard Gilpin, the Reformer, who, by opportunely meeting with a broken leg in 1553, which caused his death, escaped martyrdom.

Quitting Ince stat. the rly. crosses a little tidal inlet, at the N. of which, on Stanlaw Point, is the site of the Abbey of *Stanlaw*, founded in the 12th centy. for Cistercian monks by John, Constable of Chester. After acquiring the rectory of Rochdale from Roger de Lacy, and of Blackburn and Eccles from the Earl of Lincoln, they migrated to Whalley Abbey in Lancashire, which flourished with a grandeur which Stanlaw never reached. The Abbot of Stanlaw was one of the spiritual Barons who held under the Earls of Chester, and sat in the Parliament of that Palatinate. Although Stanlaw bore the name of "Locus Benedictus," it was not a pleasant place, and the monks had a great deal to put up with. It was low and unhealthy, often flooded, and inaccessible at spring tides: added to which, the tower of the ch. fell down in 1287, while, two years afterwards, most of it was consumed by fire.

5 m. *Whitby Stat.* On rt. is the busy little port of Whitby Locks, or *Port Ellesmere*, the tidal termination of the Ellesmere Canal, which thus communicates with the Dee, and the whole inland waterway between Cheshire, Shropshire, and the Midland counties. Iron ore is imported into the surrounding districts, while iron in its manufactured state is here loaded for exportation, and a brisk business is carried on.

Whitby Hall (J. Grace, Esq.).

7 m. *Sutton Stat.*

9 m. HOOTON JUNC. (Rte. 25).]

10 m. *Frodsham Stat.* The town, a long straggling street, most picturesquely situated at the foot of Overton Hill (400 ft.), is of considerable antiquity, and the *Inn*, the Bear's Paw, has over its doorway the date 1632 (Pop. 2095). Of the castle nothing is left, but the *ch.* is interesting. It is placed at Overton, some distance outside the town, and consists of nave, chancel, side aisles, and tower. The nave is divided from the aisles by 3 arches, 3 pillars of which are cylindrical, and the 4th octagonal. By the altar is a priest's stall, with trefoil head and canopy. Amongst the monuments is one to Mr. Hyde, of Cattenhall, 1715, also to a carpenter, who, we are told, had dropsy, and was tapped 58 times in 33 weeks, parting altogether with 1032 quarts of water. The *Beacon Hill* is said to have been used for signalling purposes as lately as the last centy. *Netherton*, at the S. end of the town, is said to have been the residence of the Nangreaves from the time of

Henry VIII. to 1815, when the family became extinct. *Limosella aquatica* grows in the neighbourhood.

Frodsham is connected, since the last edition of this Handbook, with the busy port of Runcorn by a new and direct route of the London and North-Western Rly. between Liverpool and Chester. See Runcorn, below.

3 m. to the rt. of Frodsham is the village of *Aston* and *Aston Hall*, the seat of the Astons in the time of Edward III. Under a peculiar deed they had a right to their diet at Norton Priory, and among the Aston MSS. in the British Museum there is a curious document of the reign of Henry VI., in which Richard Aston complains that he had not the same allowance as his ancestors had.

Quitting Frodsham, the rly. crosses the Weaver river and canal, near its mouth, by a lofty viaduct, on the other side of which is

12 m. *Halton Stat.* On an eminence overlooking the river is the site (with very scanty traces) of *Rock Savage*, a splendid residence erected in the reign of Elizabeth by Sir J. Savage. The Cholmondeley family still take from it the title of Earl of Rock Savage.

[*Halton* (*Inn:* Castle) is a pretty red sandstone village of neat houses and villas, placed along the terraced side of Halton Hill, the summit of which is occupied by the castle and ch. There is a magnificent view from it of the whole estuary of the Mersey, a large extent of South Lancashire, Runcorn and its bridge, the Frodsham and Helsby hills, and the Welsh mountains in the distance.

The *Castle*, although the outer wall is of great extent, has no architectural features of interest left, but before the days of artillery its situation must have made it well nigh impregnable. It was erected soon after the Conquest, by Nigel, one of the Barons of Halton (who were also Constables of Chester), to whom it was given by Hugh Lupus on condition of leading the Cheshire army against the Welsh when needed. It was a hunting-seat of John of Gaunt, and was subsequently a prison for recusants. During the Civil War it was garrisoned for the King, and besieged and taken by Sir Wm. Brereton in 1644. It has long been in the possession of the Crown as a part of the Duchy of Lancaster, and is held on lease by the Marquis of Cholmondeley. The jurisdiction of the Honour of Halton, or Halton Fee, as it is called, is large and peculiar, having a prison, a court of record, and other privileges; and one of the customs of the manor was, that the driver of cattle crossing the common should pay a halfpenny a head to the Lord of the Fee, if his cattle took so much as a bite at a thistle. This perquisite was termed Thistletake. Piers Plowman speaks of the situation of Halton, but in rather dubious terms as to the honesty of the neighbourhood:—

"Thoro the pass of Haultoun
Poverte might passe whith owte peril of robbyrye."

The *ch.*, also of New Red sandstone, is placed just beneath the castle, and is a good example of the adaptation of architectural requirements to the ground on which it is built. It has been well restored. It is of E. Eng. date, with nave, aisles, and clerestory, and a very short chancel. There is a good W. window of stained glass of two E. Eng. compartments, with a rose light above. A walk of 1 m. across the fields brings the visitor to *Runcorn* (*Inns:* Royal, Wilson's) (Pop. 16,446), a busy port on the Mersey, which has attained its growth in connection with the canal system. Run-

corn is of considerable antiquity, and a ch. and castle are said to have existed before the Conquest—the latter, a fortress of Ethelfleda, situated on what is still known as the Castle Rock. The Mersey contracts here to a breadth of 400 yards, known to sailors as Runcorn Gap, and from the fact of its being fordable at low water, it no doubt gave a considerable value to Halton Castle as a fortress. But it was not till the time of the Duke of Bridgewater and his factotum, Brindley the engineer, that Runcorn became of any importance in the commercial annals of the county. Brindley selected it as the termination of the Grand Trunk Canal at the Mersey. "The entire length of the new canal from Longford Bridge to the upper part of Runcorn, nearly 28 miles in extent, was finished and opened for traffic in the year 1767, after the lapse of about 5 years from the passing of the Act. The formidable flight of locks from the level part of the canal down to the waters of the Mersey at Runcorn, was not finished for several years later, by which time the receipts derived by the Duke from the sale of his coals, and the local traffic of the undertaking, enabled him to complete them with comparatively little difficulty. Considerable delay was occasioned by the resistance of an obstinate landowner, near Runcorn, who interposed every obstacle which it was in his power to offer; but his opposition, too, was at length overcome, and the new and complete line of water communication between Manchester and Liverpool was finally opened throughout.

In a letter written from Runcorn, dated 1st May, 1773, it is stated that "'yesterday the locks were opende, and the 'Heart of Oak,' a vessel of 50 tons burthen, for Liverpool, passed through them.'"—*Smiles.* To suit the requirements of the port, large warehouses and docks were built. There are two flights of locks, ten in each flight, also a dock with inner and outer basin. Brindley's original proposal was to connect the Lancashire and Cheshire shores by a bridge, but this was too expensive for the Duke, and it has been left for the London and North-Western Railway Company to do it, in the shape of a work which throws Brindley's plan into the shade. The direct line from London to Liverpool is given off at PRESTON JUNC. (Rte. 17), and crosses the river at Runcorn Gap by a fine *viaduct* and open lattice-girder bridge, 1500 ft. long and 75 ft. above the river at high water. Two massive stone piers support it, leaving three intervals of 300 ft. each, so as not to interfere with the navigation. The approaches are sustained by 97 arches. A roadway is added for the convenience of foot-passengers, and altogether the Runcorn bridge may fairly take rank with similar engineering structures. It was built by Mr. Wm. Baker, begun in 1863 and completed 1868. By means of it the journey from London to Liverpool is now performed in between 4 and 5 hours. A large trade is carried on at the port between Liverpool and the Midland districts, and it is the principal, and almost the only route, by which the Staffordshire potteries receive their china-clay and stone, which is brought to Runcorn by ship from Cornwall. With the exception of the railway and canal works, there is not much to be seen in the place. The *ch.* is modern, having superseded the old one in 1849, and contains a good E. window given by Sir Richard Brooke, representing the Last Supper and other incidents in the life of the Saviour. In addition to the rly. there is a ferry across the river, by which the traveller can proceed directly to *Widness* (Rte. 38). At *Weston*, 2½ m. S., are chemical works, and at *Weston Point* are the docks of the Weaver Navigation, and a lighthouse.

Rail to Crewe and Liverpool, from Runcorn.]

13½ m. *Norton Stat.* On l. is *Norton Priory*, the beautiful seat of Sir Richard Brooke, Bart., a Grecian edifice built on the site of a religious house, which was founded in Stephen's reign for Canons Regular by William FitzNigell. Although originally placed at Runcorn, it was afterwards removed to Norton and enriched with many benefactions, including "two deer yearly on the Feast of the Assumption."

At the time of the Dissolution the Abbot made great resistance to the sale of the manor to Sir Richard Brooke, but was promptly ordered by King Henry to be hanged for his impertinence "for the terrible example of all others hereafter." Sir William Brereton, however, respited him, and so the Abbot escaped. Like many other Cheshire mansions, Norton came in for rough treatment during the Civil Wars, having been besieged by the Royalists in 1643.

"One place above others hath been extremely assaulted. Mr. Brooke, of Norton's, a neere neighbour to the Earle Rivers, against which they brought their cannon, with many horse and foote, and fell to batter it on a Sabbath day. Mr. Brooke had eighty men in the house. We were carefulle he should lacke no powder. With all other things Master Brooke furnisht them fully. A man upon his tower, with a flag in his hand, *cryd them ayme*, while they discharged their cannon, saying, 'Wide, my Lord, on the right hand. Now wide two yards on the left, two yards over, my Lord.' He made them swell with anger when they could not endamage the house, for they only wounded one man, lost 46 of their own and their cannonier."

"To cry aim" is a technical phrase from the archery butts, used by Shakespeare, *King John*, II. 196, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, III. 2, 45; cf. *Ibid.*, II. 3, 93. It was the man at the target who told the archers at long ranges whether they had fired right or left, short of or over the mark. It is not quite apparent who the "my Lord" in this extract was.

Between Norton and *Daresbury Stat.* (16 m.) the line crosses the L. & N.-Western Rly. at a high level. On rt. is *Daresbury Hall* (S. B. Chadwick, Esq.). Daresbury *Ch.* (restored in 1871), contains remains of a rood-loft, a carved oak pulpit, sedilia, a niche for a pix-box, and a bas-relief by Gibson. Before the Mersey is crossed the two rlys. join issue, and together enter the stat. at *Warrington* (*Hdbk. for Lancashire*).

ROUTE 25.

FROM CHESTER TO BIRKENHEAD.

The short rly. which connects Chester and Birkenhead (15 m.) is an important link in the through traffic between Staffordshire, South Wales, and Liverpool. The only objection to it as a passenger route is the unpleasantness of the steam ferry transit across the Mersey, which in wet and stormy weather is anything but agreeable. Several proposals have been put forward to obviate it—such as a subway under the river or a leviathan bridge across it, and there is no doubt but that one of these schemes will, before many years, be carried out.

Quitting the general stat. at Chester, on l., is the County Lunatic Asylum.

3 m. *Mollington Stat.* Rt. is *Moston Hall* (Mrs. Massey), *Backford Hall* (E. H. Glegg, Esq.), and l. *Mollington Hall* (Canon Blomfield). A little to the rt. of Moston is the *Butter Hill*, where the country people left their commodities for the city, when the plague was raging. The traveller is now fairly in the peninsula of *Wirrall*, that tongue of land lying between the estuaries of the Dee and the Mersey.

> Oh! thrice happy shire, confin'd so to bee
> 'Twixt two so famous floodes as Mersey is and Dee;
> Thy Dee upon the west from Wales doth thee divide,
> Thy Mersey on the north from the Lancastrian side."
>
> *Polyolb.* xi. 33–6.

"From the city," says Camden, "north-westward, there runneth out a Chersonese into the sea, inclosed on one side with the estuary of Dee and on the other with the river Mersey. We call it Wirall, the Welsh (because it is a corner) Killgwry; this was all, heretofore, a desolate forest, and not inhabited (as the natives say): but King Edward III. disforested it. Now it is well furnished with towns, which are more favoured by the sea than by the soil; for the land affords them very little corn, but the water a great many fish."

The physical geography of Wirrall was not the same always, as it is now. The Hundred of Wirrall and the Hundred of Broxton are said to have communicated by a valley still marked with shells and sand, which a tide a little higher than usual would cover, making the district into an island. This view is corroborated by the name of Ince (Ynys, island), and several old documents relating to the ancient shore rights.

4 m. west of Mollington, nearly opposite Queensferry, is *Shotwick*. Shotwick at the Conquest was held by the Sec. Canons of St. Werbergh of Chester, from whom William took and gave it to Hugh Lupus, who granted it to the Benedictine Monks. The manor was held of their abbots by a family of the name of Sotowicke. The *ch.* is situate at the top of the old river-bank, dedicated, like many others in like position, to St. Michael and All Angels. The explanation of the problem of a ch. of so great size with so few cottages near it, and a population less than 100, is that the course of the Dee has changed, partly naturally, but mainly artificially, by reclamation of a large quantity of land.

Hence the old seafaring population migrated about 2 centuries ago to Queensferry, Connah's Quay &c.; and the ch. is, as it were, left stranded, the main population being in the village of Great Sanghall, 2 m. distant by footpath, 4 by road; and of Little Sanghall, a smaller hamlet, one mile further off. The ch. consists of a large, square, embattled tower, nave, N. aisle prolonged, and chancel. It is a question whether the present chancel is the old one, or whether the quasi-chapel at the end of the N. aisle is not where the altar originally stood; as is inferred from some still remaining stone steps, and the fragment of an old rood-screen. The porch is Saxon, but the two arches separating the chancel from N. aisle are Norman. The font is very old. There are no monuments or windows of interest. Saving that the Dean and Chapter of Chester replaced the old and falling roof by a new one a few years since, Shotwick ch. is most dilapidated. There was a ch. on the same site in 600.

On the grounds of the Lord of the Manor at Great Sanghall (Captain Trelawny), the lines of a small ancient castle are traceable, particularly the moat; excavations on a

small scale have discovered the foundations. The old stones of the walls have gone to mend pigsties. Great Sanghall lies on the top of the old river-bank, in a straight line with Shotwick.

A new *ch.* has been built at *Capenhurst*, between Shotwick and 7 m. *Ledsham Stat.*

[On l. 4 m., overlooking the Flintshire coast and the high grounds of Northop and Halkin, are *Puddington Cottage* (Sir John Stanley Errington) and *Burton Hall* (Captain Congreve). At Burton a hospital once flourished, but it was given by Henry VII. to the hospital of St. John at Lichfield, which till recently enjoyed the tithes. Dr. Wilson, the pious Bishop of Sodor and Man, was born here in 1663. The cottage where he was born is still standing. The oak surplice-cupboard in the ch. vestry was the Bishop's property, perhaps his wardrobe. The school was founded and endowed by the Bishop, and in his deed of gift, Wirrall is spelt "Worrhall" or, as the country folk call it, Wharl. The tithes of Burton have been bought from the Hospital of St. John at Lichfield by Captain Congreve, the squire and patron of Burton.]

8½ m. HOOTON JUNC., with the Helsby line (Rte. 24) and with the Parkgate line. On rt. is *Hooton Hall* (J. Naylor, Esq.), a fine park celebrated for its training-ground and stables. The Hooton Hall art collection was sold in 1875. Hooton was once a seat of the Stanleys, a branch of the Latham family, and staunch Catholics. From its situation, close to the river, it was a well-known receptacle for Popish emissaries, who could be shipped off at a moment's notice, when necessary. Sir Rowland Stanley's eldest son William held a post of trust in Queen Elizabeth's army of the Netherlands, and was made governor of Deventer. But he shamefully betrayed his post and treacherously gave it up to the Spaniards. In Sir J. Stanley's time a seal was taken in a net off Hooton.

[From Hooton a short branch runs across the peninsula to the Dee Coast.

1½ m. *Hadlow Road Stat.*

4 m. *Neston Stat.* Neston (*Inn:* Plough) is a quiet little market-town in which the magisterial business of Wirrall is mainly transacted. The *ch.* is old, but much altered from time to time. It consists of nave, aisles, chancel, and tower, and is built of warm red sandstone.

4½ m. *Parkgate* (*Hotel:* Union) is a small watering-place that competes with those on the Mersey for Liverpool summer visitors. It has but few attractions, except an excellent pure air blowing over from the Dee and the Welsh hills, and very charming views of Flintshire and the estuary—the spot where "Lycidas" was shipwrecked, and where, at low water divided by an uncertain and dangerous channel, stretch far out the sands known to modern literature by the beautiful song in the novel of 'Alton Locke'—

> "Oh Mary, go and call the cattle home
> Across the sands of Dee."

Seen when the tide is in, the Dee (the Seteia Æstuarium of Ptolemy) appears a magnificent river, fit for a commercial navy, which might be attracted by the riches of its shores, the coal of its immediate basin, the lead from the limestone hills of Flintshire, the ancient smelting trade, which is, as it has been, one of its prerogatives—all these might be expected to lie in its anchorages, which are, on the contrary, a solitary waste of waves. This requires a remedy which will never be efficiently applied until its waters, as far as Mostyn Deeps, are confined in a ship canal.

The Dee itself, from Queenferry to Chester, was embanked in 1732, and by this means 50,000 acres reclaimed for agricultural purposes. For the tourist who has time at his disposal no walk can be more breezy or agreeable than that from Parkgate to *Hoylake*, where a train to Birkenhead may be obtained. The pedestrian will keep the high ground parallel with the shore, passing *Ashfield Hall* (R. Macfie, Esq.), *Leighton Hall* (T. Monk, Esq.), the villages of Gayton, Heswell, Thurstaston, and *West Kirby* (*Inns:* Royal; Green Lodge). All these places are more or less sought after as residences by Liverpool merchants, who have a choice of marine localities such as falls to very few mercantile towns.]

10 m. *Bromborough Stat.* On rt., 1 m., is *Eastham Ferry* (*Hotel:* Ferry, good), the Sunday and summer resort of Liverpool excursionists, who throng thither to enjoy the shady woods and pleasant river-banks. Steamers leave every hour for St. George's Pier, 6 m. The village of Eastham is 1 m. S. between the Ferry and Hooton. Rt. *Bromborough Hall* (late R. Rankin, Esq.).

12 m. *Spital Stat.* On rt. is a small tidal estuary called *Bromborough Pool*, utilised as a safe situation for the floating powder-magazines, which it would be imprudent to place nearer Liverpool. Here are also the works of Price's Patent Candle Co., together with shipping conveniences for loading the New Red sandstone from the *Storeton Hill*, 1 m. l.

The geologist should pay a visit to these quarries, which are in the Keuper beds. About 130 ft. from the base of the formation, footprints of the Rhyncosaurus and the Cheirotherium (Labyrinthodon), a huge Batrachian of the Triassic era, have been found, similar to those at Lymm (Rte. 19).

13 m. *Bebbington Stat.*, which may almost be called a suburb of Birkenhead, from its easy access and the number of its villa residences. Bebbington *ch.* is very ancient. Ormerod says the nave and S. aisle are divided by a range of Saxon arches, resting on massy cylindrical columns. The rest of the ch. was finished temp. Henry VII.

14 m. *Rock Ferry*, or Tranmere, to which steamers ply from St. George's Pier every half hour. The views of the opposite bank of the Mersey, of the Liverpool Docks, the houses and gardens of Toxteth, are beautiful and peculiar, and the scene is constantly enlivened by the passage of perpetual steamers and tugs, taking vessels to and from the *Sloyne*, in which are usually anchored the Reformatory vessel, the naval school, and any ship of war which may happen to be stationed at Liverpool.

15 m. the terminus is reached at *Birkenhead* (Monk's Ferry), where a rly. boat crosses to St. George's Pier on the arrival of each train. But those who wish to see Birkenhead should proceed to Gough's Hotel (good), immediately fronting the *Woodside Ferry*, from whence there is a continual stream of passengers crossing the water. The stages, booking-offices, and refreshment-rooms on this side the Ferry form an establishment of themselves, and are well worthy of notice.

Birkenhead, like Crewe, Swindon, and Willesden inland, is essentially a place of modern growth, developed entirely by the railway system and the enormous commerce attracted to Liverpool.

Prior to the reign of Edward III. it is said to have acquired its name of Berkin or Birchen from the extensive forest which, according to tradition, extended all over Lancashire from the Ribble to the Dee, giving rise to the old rhyme that—

"From Birchen haven to Hilbre
A squirril might hop from tree to tree."

Previous to the disforesting of the district by Edward III., "the whole of the peninsula between the Dee and the Mersey was possessed by Gherbaud, a noble Fleming; then by one Hugues d'Avranches, whose ferocity gained for him the cognomen of Le Loup. At that period the banks of the Mersey were so dangerous, from the existence of sandy shoals, that very little shipping sailed thence, and the shores of the Dee became the point of departure for English troops at the time when the Conquest of Ireland began to engage the thoughts of the English monarch. The peninsula of North Cheshire thus came more and more into notice, and about the year 1170 a priory was established at the spot now known as Birkenhead, for 16 monks of the Benedictine order."—*Land We Live In.*

The priors of Birkenhead appear to have had considerable power, and sat in the parliaments of the Earls of Chester. The rights of the ferry were given to them, the charges being "for a horseman twopence, for a man on foot one farthing, a halfpenny for a footman on market days, and a penny when he had goods or produce with him." One of the priors incurred the accusation of extortion for raising the rate on market day to a halfpenny, when it should be only one farthing. After the dissolution of the monasteries Birkenhead became the property of the Wortley family, and subsequently changed hands a good deal, being as lately as 1818 a little insignificant village with about 50 inhabitants.

But in 1824 a great change came over the place, which has since continuously and rapidly increased, until it has attained its present size with its population of nearly 80,000 souls. It was in that year that the late Mr. Laird, a ship-builder at Liverpool, purchased of the lord of the manor a few acres of land on the borders of *Wallasey Pool*, a swampy river which emptied itself into the Mersey about 2 m. W. of Birkenhead. For this investment he paid at the rate of 4*d.* per yard—selling it again a few years afterwards to the Corporation of Liverpool for nine times its former value.

This was partly owing to the success of Mr. Laird's shipbuilding yard and partly to the favourable opinion of Telford, Stephenson, and other engineers as to the qualifications of Wallasey Pool for docks.

Thus began the town existence of Birkenhead, which soon appointed Commissioners to regulate its affairs and administer its finances, one of the most important of their negotiations being the purchase of the manorial rights of the Woodside and Monks' Ferry. Still, the Corporation of Liverpool, which had bought the land round Wallasey, took no further action in making docks; and it was not until 1843 that Mr. Laird, with two other gentlemen, Messrs. Potter and Jackson, bought back the land which he had sold 17 years before, at the rate of 10*s.* a yard, so that the value of the land in 20 years had increased 40-fold.

Having concluded their negotiations by the purchase of 600,000 additional yards, they called in the aid of Mr. Rendel to build their docks, the main feature of which was to convert the Wallasey Pool into an enormous basin, close to its junction with the Mersey. The Act was passed in 1843, notwithstanding the determined opposition of the Liverpool Corporation, which seemed disposed not to do anything itself, nor to let anybody else do it. The fear of the injury that such a vigorous rival might do to their own docks, no doubt, was the cause of the opposition; but that has long been

proved to be a false alarm. The docks were opened in 1847 by Lord Morpeth, and, after going through much difficulty and a very uphill existence, were finally transferred to the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, in 1858, thus eventually coming back again into the hands of the original owners.

A visit round the whole system of Birkenhead *Docks* entails a good deal of walking. "The total superficial area of the Dock Estate is 497 acres, appropriated as follows:—Water space in the floats, docks, and tidal basins, 168 acres; quays, yards, storage grounds, and land covered by buildings, 329 acres; the total lineal length of quayage is about 10 miles."—*Kelly.* They consist of the *Wallasey Pool*, called the Western or *Great Float*, which is the furthest away from the town, and runs up to Poulton Bridge, near the rly. stat. and to Hoylake. On the southern side of the Great Float are two other basins and two graving docks, for repairing vessels. Here also are rows of coal-staithes and tips for loading ships with steam coal, large quantities of which are brought daily from North and South Wales by special trains. A walk round the Great Float will give the visitor a good idea of the magnitude of the coal trade between South Wales and Birkenhead. It has an area of 52 acres and a quayage of over 2 miles. Connected with it, by a long passage, is the *Eastern Float*—a fine basin of 60 acres—surrounded by a magnificent range of warehouses and sheds for storing goods.

The Eastern Float is connected by an iron swing-bridge with Seacombe, and by 5 passages with the docks outside it. Close to its entrance is a fine castellated building with a lofty and conspicuous tower, containing the hydraulic and steam machinery for opening and shutting the dock gates and sluices. The remaining docks, which are nearer Birkenhead, are the *Egerton Dock* of 4 acres, the *Morpeth Dock* of 12 acres, the Morpeth *Tidal* Basin of 7½ acres, and the *Low Water* Basin of 14 acres, which has an extensive system of sluices connected with the back water in the float for enabling the deposit to be scoured. What strikes the visitor most is the inadequacy of the present trade to fill such a colossal establishment, although there can be no doubt that time will remedy this defect. An extensive list has been compiled of the casual foreign species of plants introduced in shipbales and ballast round and near the Birkenhead Docks. These aliens seldom survive above a year or two, but the same species are being continually reimported.

Birkenhead, being essentially a modern town, presents scarce any features of interest for the antiquary. The churches, 5 in number, are all more or less modern, though *St. Mary's*, from a design of Rickman's, is the principal one. They are all built of New Red sandstone, of which such valuable supplies are derived from the Storeton quarries close by. There are ruins of an ancient Priory, founded in 1250 by Hamon, Lord of Dunham Massey, for 16 Benedictine monks. They consisted of a building of two stories, N. of the quadrangle; the upper containing the dormitory, the lower a crypt vaulted with stone arches springing from corbels. The hall and the Prior's apartment, an enriched sample of E. Eng., lie to the W. of the quadrangle; and to the E. is the chapter-house, an oblong building, the arches of the vaulted roof of which are semicircular, resting on capitals of E. Norman work. The interior of the apartment is lighted by 3 E. Eng. windows. In the wall is an incised slab commemorative of a prior. The streets are well and regularly laid out, and many of the houses built with a solidity and style that few modern towns aspire

to. Indeed *Hamilton Square* is one of the finest squares in the kingdom, out of London. The *Market Hall* was built by Fox, Henderson, & Co., of Great Exhibition celebrity, who have applied their system of iron and glass roof over a very large area with the happiest success. The length of the whole building is 480 ft. by 130 ft. in width. *St. Aidan's College* is in the suburb of Claughton, and is a handsome Tudor building by *Wyatt*, accommodating 80 students, who are trained for the ministry of the Church of England.

Birkenhead Park lies to the N.W. of the town, and is one of the happiest utilizations of a swamp that it is possible to conceive. It consists of 180 acres of charming walks, flower-beds, and artificial water, laid out from designs by *Sir Joseph Paxton*, at a cost of 120,000*l*. At the extreme end of the town, overlooking the Great Float, are the *Workmen's dwellings*, a block of buildings of handsome elevation, divided by parallel avenues into five or six blocks, capable of holding 350 families, arranged on the flat-system. All the domestic conveniences and sanitary arrangements are most complete throughout.

One of the most peculiar features of Birkenhead are the *street railways*, it being one of the few places in England in which Mr. Train's idea took root. They certainly are a great boon here, for the distances are so long, and the gradients so heavy, that the rails offer unusual facilities for locomotion, besides allowing the introduction of very large and roomy omnibuses. The latter ply constantly from morning till night to the Park, Oxton, Claughton, principal suburbs, with good residences, 1½ mile from the Mersey, and the Hoylake rly. stat.; receiving fresh cargoes on the arrival of each steamer at the Woodside landing-stage.

Rail to Helsby Junc., 16 m.; Warrington, 27; Manchester, 49; Chester, 15; Hoylake, 8. *Steamers* to Liverpool, from Woodside Stage, every 10 minutes; from Monks' Ferry, on the arrival of trains.

Distances. Oxton, 1½ m.; Eastham, 5½; Hoylake, 8; Bidston, 3½; Leasowe, 5; Parkgate, 9; New Brighton, 3½; Egremont, 2.

[At *Bidston* Hill, 3½ m. to the W., is the Liverpool *Observatory*, established by the Dock Estate, where chronometers are sent to be regulated. It contains an equatorial of 12 feet focal length, and 8½ in. aperture, and self-regulating anemometer and barometer. From the *Lighthouse*, which shows a fixed white light visible 25 miles distant, a very charming view is obtained of the estuaries of the Mersey and the Dee, Liverpool, Birkenhead, Seacombe, Egremont, New Brighton, Hoylake, Flint, Mostyn, and a long expanse of Welsh mountains.

The village of *Bidston* is chiefly of interest from its description by Albert Smith, in his 'Christopher Tadpole.' The "Ring of Bells" is still in existence, and maintains its business-like character, as detailed on the signboard:—

"Walk in my friends and taste my beer and liquor,
If your pockets be well stored, you'll find it come the quicker;
But for want of that has caused both grief and sorrow,
Therefore you must pay to-day, I will trust to-morrow."

1½ m. on the sea-coast, which is here fringed by a shoal called Mockbeggar Wharf, is the curious old structure of *Leasowe Castle*, the residence of the late General the Hon. Sir E. Cust, Bart. The associations that surround it are very peculiar, the neighbourhood having from early days been celebrated for its race-course. As far back as 1593, races were held here, at which time Leasowe was built by Ferdinand,

Earl of Derby, as a sporting-lodge, from whence to witness them, under the name of Mock-beggar Hall. The Duke of Monmouth figured in one of these races in 1683, and presented the prize which he won, to the Mayor of Chester's daughter, whose godfather he was. The sports, which were one of the most fashionable gatherings of those times, fell into disuse about the end of the last centy. Leasowe Castle, although of Elizabethan age, has been added to in the present centy.; and it may now be described as a tall octagonal tower, with square turrets attached to its alternate faces, which terminate in gables rising above the centre of the building. The apartments possess many interesting curiosities. One is fitted up with the oak panelling of the Star Chamber, brought here from Westminster in 1834. Both it and the chimney-piece show by their decorations that they are of the age of Henry VIII. In the hall are much old oak-carving and some banners, one of which was brought by the Duke of Wellington from Paris in 1815. It was a presentation flag by the Emperor to the National Guards of that year.

The gardens are extremely pretty, and, although devoid of timber, sufficient shelter is given by a long sea embankment to enable flowers to grow luxuriantly. This embankment runs westward for 1½ m., and has been a work of no little importance to the security of the district. Allusion has been made before to the forest which is said to have extended from Hilbre Island to the Ribble. Although there is not a vestige of it remaining, sufficient discoveries have been made, to show that at some time or other trees of a large calibre existed. Geologically speaking, it would seem as if the district was of the recent era; for, in addition to the oak-trees, *Cervus elephas* and *Bos primigenius* have been dug up, and are preserved in the hall of Leasowe. It is evident, too, that the whole contour of the land is far different to what it once was, and it seems probable that the Wallasey River was formerly the outlet of an important stream, and perhaps that of what is now the Mersey.

Further on the coast, some 3½ m., is *Hoylake*, famous for its cocklers, and its life-boat crew, whose boat is anchored at Hilbre Island, a favourite residence with Liverpool merchants, since the opening of the rly. (*Hotel:* Royal). Near this place is West Kirby, opposite to Hilbre Island, containing an ancient chapel. The patronage of West Kirby was in dispute between the Monks of Basinwerk and those of St. Werbergh, and adjudged to the latter. The sea begins to be a little open here, and the views towards Rhyl and the Welsh mountains are very charming. It is said that a good many antiquarian remains have at different times been found—such as fibulæ and rings, indications perhaps of the population which existed contemporaneously with the forest and the *Bos primigenius*.

1 m. off the coast is *Hilbre Island*, marked by a telegraph, which, in the days before the electric wire became so universal, was an important link in the chain of telegraphs between Holyhead and Liverpool, by which early intimation was given to the port, of vessels coming up channel. *Statice occidentalis* grows abundantly on it. From Hoylake the visitor may extend his walk to West Kirby, Heswell, and Parkgate, or return by rail to Birkenhead, passing the stations of *Meols*, *Moreton*, and *Bidston*. At Meols are the remains of a curious submerged (lacustrine) village.]

[The remaining portion of Cheshire between the Wallasey Pool and the sea is principally used as a residential district by Liverpool mer-

chants, who have built rows of pretty villas extending the whole way to New Brighton. The first place that occurs after leaving the swing-bridge, near the Eastern Float, is

Seacombe, from whence there is a steam-ferry every quarter of an hour to Prince's landing-stage. From *Egremont* boats run every half-hour. Near the latter place is *Liscard*, where there is a battery. *Liscard Hall* is the residence of H. Littledale, Esq., who has a model farm a little further on.

Wallasey possesses a new ch. in lieu of the old one which was burnt down in 1857. The tower of the old ch. stands in a yard adjoining. The situation of the village is very pretty, on a rising ground, overlooking the Pool, the sea-coast towards Leasowe, and Bidston Hill.

New Brighton is an assemblage of marine villas and hotels, built on a sandy promontory, and commanding charming views of the Channel, the Welsh mountains, and the ever busy mouth of the Mersey. Bathing is carried on here largely, but principally by excursionists, who are not particular as to the muddiness of the water or the strength of the tidal wave. But the air is keen and fresh, and the visitor may spend many a less enjoyable day than at New Brighton. On the Rock Point is a strong battery for the protection of the river, accommodating 100 men, and armed with Armstrong guns. Beyond it is the *Lighthouse*, built of Anglesea granite, and cemented with a volcanic product from Etna, which becomes harder as time goes on. The light is revolving, showing alternately red and white. *Steamers* run from New Brighton every half-hour to Liverpool.]

The *Viola Curtisii* grows on the sandhills near New Brighton.

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GLASGOW, 1880.

JAMES SMITHELLS,
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DERBY, *April*, 1880.

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AIX-LES-BAINS.

HOTEL DAMESIN and CONTINENTAL.

Open all the Year.

This Hotel is particularly recommended to English Families for its comfort and beautiful situation. Smoking, Billiard Room, and Ladies' Drawing Room. Pension from 7 francs a day. Omnibus at Train. American Proprietress.

DAMESIN, Proprietor.

AIX-LA-CHAPELLE.

HOYER'S IMPERIAL CROWN HOTEL, near the Kurhaus and Bath-houses, with large Garden. Very comfortable Apartments. Single Rooms. Excellent Cooking, and attentive attendance. Very Moderate Charges, and advantageous arrangements for Winter. OTTO HOYER.

AIX-LES-BAINS.

GRAND HOTEL DE L'UNIVERS.

First-Class Establishment, Open all the Year.

SPLENDID Situation; immense Garden; South aspect well shaded; a very extended view of Lake Bourget and the Mountains. Belvedere, with fine prospect of the principal points of view, and Excursions. Small and large Apartments; Salons for Families; Drawing Room, Reading Room, and Smoking Room, with every comfort that can be desired. *French and Foreign Papers.*

Arrangements made for Pension. Private Carriages. Stable and Coach-house.

Omnibus of the Hotel meets every Train.

CLLE. RENAUD, *Proprietor.*

AIX-LA-CHAPELLE.

GRAND MONARQUE HOTEL.
Close by the Railway Stations and the Baths.

KAISERBAD HOTEL (built in 1865).
The principal Spring rises in the Hotel itself.

NUELLEN'S HOTEL.
Opposite the Fountain "Eliza."

NEUBAD HOTEL.
(Renovated in 1879.)

MR. G. F. DREMEL is the Proprietor of these four hotels of European reputation. The combination in one hand of Four Establishments of such magnitude, enables Mr. Dremel to afford suitable accommodation to all comers; to visitors to whom money is no object, as well as to parties desirous of living at a moderate rate of expense.

ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT.

THE ALEXANDRIA

STATIONERS' AND BOOKSELLERS' COMPANY,

LIMITED.

ANDREW V. PHILIP, Manager.

English and American Publications—Tauchnitz Editions.

NEWSPAPERS RECEIVED BY EVERY MAIL.

LATEST NEWS RECEIVED DAILY BY TELEGRAPH.

GOODS FORWARDED TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

Agencies in the principal Cities of Europe and the United States.

ALLEVARD-LES-BAINS. (ISÈRE.) (Goncelin Station.)

The Switzerland of Dauphiny. Altitude 1570 feet.

THE HOTEL DU LOUVRE.—This splendid and best-situated Hotel recommends itself as much for the comfort of its Apartments, as for its Table and Wines, which form part of the rest of the very Moderate Prices. Magnificent view of the Glaciers. Omnibus of the Hotel at the Station of Goncelin.

BERTHET, Proprietor and Manager.

AMPHION-LES-BAINS.

Near EVIAN (Haute-Savoie), upon the Shores of LAKE GENEVA.

Alkaline Spring (much bicarbonated), and Chalybeate Spring. Situated in an unexceptional Situation upon the borders of the Lake of Geneva, close to all the beautiful spots of Switzerland. First-Class Hotels. Immense English Park. Boats upon the Lake. Carriages for Drives.

Omnibus of the Hotel

At the arrival of the Steamboats at Evian. Line of Steamers from Geneva to Amphion.

Telegraph Office in the Hotel.

OPEN THE 1st JUNE.

G. GOUGOLTZ, Director.

Proprietor of Grand Hotel Beau-Site at Cannes.

AMIENS.

HOTEL DE L'UNIVERS.—First-Class Hotel, facing St. Denis' Square, near the Railway Station. Three minutes' walk to the Cathedral. Drawing and Bath Rooms. English Interpreter.

Omnibus of the Hotel at every Train.

AMIENS.

HOTEL DE FRANCE, D'ANGLETERRE, and DE L'EUROPE. BRULÉ, Proprietor.—First-Class Hotel, one of the oldest on the Continent. Situated in the centre and the finest part of the town. Having recently been newly furnished, it offers great comfort. Families and Single Gentlemen accommodated with convenient Suites of Apartments and Single Rooms.

OMNIBUS AT STATION. ENGLISH SPOKEN.

AMSTERDAM.

AMSTEL HOTEL.

THIS Magnificent First-Class House is situated near the Zoological and Botanical Gardens, the Crystal Palace, &c. Cheerful Views on the Amstel River. *It is provided with every comfort, and contains* 200 *well-furnished Rooms and Saloons; Reading and Smoking Rooms, and a special Ladies' Saloon. A Steam Launch for Excursions.*

Terms Moderate. Telegraph Office and Stables attached to the House.

Branch Office of the Dutch Railway Company: Tickets sold and Luggage registered to all parts of Europe.

ANTWERP.

HOTEL ST. ANTOINE.

PLACE VERTE, Opposite the Cathedral.

THIS excellent FIRST-CLASS HOTEL, which enjoys the well-merited favour of Families and Tourists, has been re-purchased by its old and well-known Proprietor, Mr. SCHMITT SPAENHOVEN, who, with his Partner, will do everything in their power to render the visit of all persons who may honour them with their patronage as agreeable and comfortable as possible.

BATHS IN THE HOTEL.

MODERATE PRICES.

AIX-LA-CHAPELLE.

HOTEL DU DRAGON D'OR.

Close to Kursaal and Bath Houses.

Reputation for comfort, cleanliness, and very moderate Charges. *Table d'Hôte* at 1 and 5 o'clock.

CARL THOMES, Proprietor.

BADEN-BADEN.

HOTEL DE FRANCE.

FIRST-CLASS HOTEL. Best Situation.

Excellent Cooking, and Moderate Charges.

CARL ULRICH, Proprietor.

ARONA. (Lake Maggiore, Italy.)

Hotel d'Italie et Poste.

Magnificent Position, opposite the Steamboat Pier. Comfort. Moderate Prices. Garden. Reading Room. Table d'Hôte. Horses and Carriages for Excursions.

ZANETTA FRÈRES, Proprietors.

BAGNÈRES DE BIGORRE.

Grand Hotel Beau-Séjour.

FIRST-CLASS.

The most comfortable and the best situated.

ASHBURTON, DEVON.

GOLDEN LION HOTEL.

M. A. SEXTON, Proprietor.

SITUATED on the Borders of Dartmoor, and in the immediate neighbourhood of the most beautiful of the far-famed Devon scenery, including the upper reaches of the Dart, and the celebrated Buckland and Holne Chase drives; it is peculiarly adapted for the resort of Tourists and Travellers. It contains spacious private Apartments, has a good Garden attached, and is replete with every convenience for the comfort of Families.

Post-Horses and Carriages of every description.

Good Salmon and Trout Fishing, on moderate terms, for long or short periods, can be had. Particulars on application to the Proprietor of the Hotel.

AVIGNON.

HOTEL D'EUROPE.

HIGHLY recommended to English Travellers on their journey to Nice, Italy, &c. First-Class and Moderate Prices. The Proprietor and his Wife having lived in England, are aware of the wants of English Travellers; and he assures them that their comforts shall be studied. Omnibus at all Trains.

BADEN-BADEN.

HOTEL STADT BADEN.

On the right hand side and nearest the Station.

COMMANDING a delicious view of the Old Castle and high rocks. Known for its Cleanliness, excellent Cooking, good Attendance, and fixed Moderate Charges.

E. ROESSLER, Landlord.

BADEN-BADEN.

VICTORIA HOTEL.

Proprietor, Mr. FRANZ GROSHOLZ.

THIS is one of the finest-built and best-furnished First-class Hotels, situated on the new Promenade, near the Kursaal and Theatre; it commands the most charming views in Baden. It is reputed to be one of the best Hotels in Germany. The Table and Wines are excellent, with prompt attendance and great civility. Prices very moderate. English and other Journals.

BADEN-BADEN.

HOTEL DE HOLLANDE and Dependance.

AU BEAU SEJOUR.—A. ROESSLER, Proprietor. This favourite and first-class Hotel; situated near the Kursaal, Promenade, and Theatre, commands one of the most charming views in Baden. The Hotel and Dependance consist of One Hundred and Sixty Sleeping Apartments, elegant Sitting-rooms, and a Garden for the use of visitors. Extensive and airy Dining-room, and a comfortable Public Sitting-room, with Piano and Library. It is conducted under the immediate superintendence of the Proprietor, who endeavours, by the most strict attention and exceedingly Moderate Prices, to merit the continued patronage of English and American visitors. English and American Newspapers. The Table d'Hôte and Wines of this Hotel are reputed of the best quality in Baden. Fixed moderate charges for everything. Rooms from 2s. and upwards.

PENSION in the early and later part of the Season.

BADEN-BADEN.

HOTEL EUROPE, BADEN-BADEN.

Proprietor, OTTO KAH.

FIRST-CLASS Hotel, opposite the Conversation House and Trinkhalle. Reading Room, &c. Recommended.

BADEN-BADEN.

HOTEL DE LA COUR DE BADE.

Badischer Hof.

(Not to be confounded with the Hôtel de la Ville de Bade, opposite the Railway Station.)

A FIRST-RATE and large Establishment near the Promenade and the Conversation House, with extensive Gardens, Warm, Mineral, and other Baths, enjoying a well-merited reputation for its great comfort and attention. It is patronised by the most distinguished Families.

Manager, Mr. Fr. ZIEGLER.

BARCELONA (SPAIN).

VDA DE A. SARDÁ É HIJO—

EXCHANGE OFFICE,

In the Rambla del Centro No. 37, near the Grand Hôtel des Quatre Nations. Payment in Cash for Bank Notes, Cheques, and Circular Notes.

BARCELONA.

GRAND HÔTEL DES QUATRE NATIONS.

IN THE RAMBLA.

THE largest and finest Hotel in Barcelona; most advantageously situated in the best position in the Rambla, facing the Teatro Principal, and close to the Post and Telegraph Offices. *Full Southern Aspect.* Enlarged and newly decorated. Table d'Hôte. Private Service. Large and small Apartments. Many Fire-places. Bath. Reading Room, with Piano. Smoking Room and Parlour. Foreign Newspapers. Carriages of every description. Great Comfort and Cleanliness. *French Cuisine.* Omnibus at Railway Stations. Interpreters. Moderate Terms. English and German Spoken. Arrangements for Pension during the Winter Season.

BELFAST.

THE IMPERIAL HOTEL,

FIRST CLASS. BEST SITUATION.

Omnibuses meet all Trains and Steamers.

W. J. JURY, Proprietor.

BERLIN.

HOTEL D'ANGLETERRE,

2, SCHINKEL-PLACE, 2.

SITUATED IN THE FINEST AND MOST ELEGANT PART OF THE TOWN,

Near to the Royal Palaces, Museums, and Theatres.

SINGLE Travellers and large Families can be accommodated with entire Suites of Apartments, consisting of splendid Saloons, airy Bedrooms, &c., all furnished and carpeted in the best English style. First-rate Table d'Hôte, Baths, Equipages, Guides. *Times* and *Galignani's Messenger* taken in. Residence of Her British Majesty's Messengers.

R. SIEBELIST, Proprietor.

BERLIN.

HOTEL DE RUSSIE.

THIS well-known FIRST-CLASS HOTEL, newly restored and handsomely decorated, and situated in the most attracting part of the City, facing the Imperial Castle,

NEAR UNTER DEN LINDEN,

recommends itself for the comfort it offers to its Visitors.

CARL FRIEDRICH KÜHRT.

BERLIN.

HOTEL ROYAL.

Unter den Linden No. 3, and Corner of Wilhelm Street.

OPPOSITE the English Embassy, Mr. FRIEDRICH LANGE, Proprietor.—This Hotel is in the best situation in the town, near the Promenade, the King's Theatre, the Museum, &c. It is most elegantly furnished. Saloons and Large Apartments for Families. Baths in the Hotel. Carriages. Private Dinners and Suppers at any hour. Prompt Attendance and Moderate Prices.

BERLIN.

GRAND HOTEL DE ROME, under the Tilleuls, 39, corner of Charlotten Street. This great and beautiful Hotel, the largest and best situated of the Capital, combines real English comfort with reasonable prices, and is kept in a very fashionable manner. Two hundred Rooms, twenty-five Saloons, three large Dining Rooms for more than 600 persons. Reading Rooms supplied with all foreign Newspapers. Music Saloon, and Conversation Room, &c. Restaurant "à la Française." The prices are placed in every Room. Cold and Warm Baths. Post Office, Telegraph, &c. Omnibuses at the Station.

BERLIN.

ST. PETERSBURG HOTEL.

Unter den Linden 31.

The Table d'Hôte and Wines of this Hotel are reputed of the best quality in Berlin. Fixed Moderate Charges.

T. HEUDTLASS, Proprietor.

BONN.

RHEINECK HOTEL,

AT THE LANDING PLACE.

Finest View on the Seven Mountains.

Rooms from 2 Marks.

Breakfast, 1 *Mark.* *Dinner*, 2½ *Marks.*

BIDEFORD.

NEW INN, FAMILY AND COMMERCIAL HOTEL.

HENRY ASCOTT, Proprietor.

THIS old-established and commodious Hotel and Posting-House is pleasantly situated in an elevated and central part of the town, and commands extensive and beautiful views of the river Torridge, and surrounding country. Is 11 miles distant from Clovelly, 8 miles from Hobby drive, and 3 miles from Westward Ho. Private Suites of Apartments. Coffee, Commercial, and Billiard Rooms. Posting and Livery Stables. Omnibuses meet all Trains.

BONN.

THE GOLDEN STAR HOTEL.

THIS First-rate and unrivalled Hotel, patronised by the English Royal Family, Nobility, and Gentry, is the nearest Hotel to the Railway Station, and to the Landing-places of the Rhine Steamers. The Proprietor, Mr. J. SCHMITZ, begs leave to recommend his Hotel to Tourists. The Apartments are comfortably furnished and carpeted in the best style, and the charges are moderate. Arrangements for the Winter may be made, on the most moderate terms.

BONN.

GRAND ROYAL HÔTEL,

On the Banks of the Rhine. *European Repute.* 200 *Rooms and Saloons.*

SITUATION without equal, facing the Rhine; Seven Mountains and Park. Near the Landing Place and Railway Station. Extensive English Gardens, Reading and Smoking Rooms, Ladies Saloons. *Warm and Cold Baths in the Hôtel.*

BOLOGNA, ITALY.

HOTEL PELLIGRINO.

SECOND-CLASS HOTEL, but Good.

The Four Languages spoken.

F. RAVALDONI, *Proprietor.*

BORDEAUX.

HOTEL DE PARIS.

FIRST-CLASS HOTEL.

Much frequented by English and American Travellers.

BOULOGNE-SUR-MER.

HÔTEL DES BAINS ET DE BELLE VUE.

Opposite the Folkestone Steamers and Railway Station. *Carriages and Commissionnaire attend all Arrivals.* Table d'Hôte at 6 o'clock.

E. & C. MUNTON, Managers.

BOULOGNE-SUR-MER.

GRAND HÔTEL CHRISTOL & BRISTOL.

First-class Hotel.

Best Situation in the Town. Highly recommended for Families and Gentlemen.

Carriage in Attendance on Arrival of all Trains and Boats.

F. CHRISTOL, Proprietor and Manager.

BOULOGNE-SUR-MER.

GRAND HOTEL DU NORD.

PATRONIZED by their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of the French, and of Austria, and Don Carlos. 150 First-Class Bed and Sitting Rooms; Reading, Music, Conversation, Billiard, and Smoking Rooms. Telegraph and Post Offices in the Hotel du Nord.

GOOD STABLING AND COACH-HOUSES, &c. &c.

C. LACOSTE, *Proprietor.*

HOTEL PORTER AT ARRIVAL OF ALL BOATS.

BOURNEMOUTH.

NEWLYN'S EXETER PARK HOTEL.

FIRST-CLASS FAMILY HOTEL.

Accommodation, Cuisine, and Wines of the best description. Charges Moderate.

Proprietor Twelve Years Manager of the Principal London Clubs.

BRISTOL.

ROYAL HOTEL, COLLEGE GREEN.

FIRST-CLASS. Central, and pleasantly situated. Very spacious Coffee, Dining, Reading, Smoking, and Billiard Rooms. Private Apartments *en suite*. One Hundred and Twenty Bed-rooms. Steam Lift and Laundry. Hot and Cold Baths. Postal Telegraph Office and Post-office in the Hotel. Fixed Charges. The Hotel Omnibus meets all principal Trains. Night Porter kept.

F. SWANSON, Manager.

BRUGES.

HOTEL DE FLANDRE. First-Class House. Table d'Hôte at 1 and 5 o'clock. Beautiful Garden. Hot and Cold Baths. Arrangements can be made at any time during the Year by the Week or Month. PENSION during Winter, commencing at £6 per Month. The Proprietors of the Hotel have the monopoly of the celebrated Sparkling Rhenish Wine "Rheingold," and keep a Depôt of all kinds of German Wines for exportation to England. An Annexe has been added to the Hotel, containing twenty splendid Apartments.

BRUSSELS.

HÔTEL DE BELLE VUE.

Proprietor, Mr. EDWARD DREMEL.

THIS magnificent Hotel, in offering to Visitors every kind of comfort and accommodation, has the great advantage of being situated adjoining

THE PALACE OF THE KING,

and facing

THE PLACE ROYALE AND THE PARK.

Price List, with every detail of its *moderate charges* in every room. Single Rooms from 4 francs upwards.

Table d'Hôte richly served at Six o'Clock, after the arrival of the latest London day Train.

Reading Room, with the best English, American, French, German, and Dutch daily Papers and Periodicals.

Smoking Room. Terraces with splendid View overlooking the Park.

Arrangements for the Winter from 15 francs per person per day, including everything but Wine.

BRUSSELS.

HOTEL DE FLANDRE.

THIS first-rate old-established and highly-recommended Hotel has been considerably enlarged and elegantly furnished, and has a

NEW DINING ROOM,

Which is the admiration of every Visitor.

The Situation of the HOTEL DE FLANDRE, overlooking the *Place Royale* and *The Park*, its capital

TABLE d'HÔTE and WINES,

added to the **attention** and **civility** shown to all Visitors, have made this House deservedly popular.

MODERATE CHARGES: Rooms from 3 francs upwards.

Board and Lodging during the Winter Months from 15 francs per person per day, including everything but Wine.

TARIFFS IN EVERY ROOM.

BRUGES.

GRAND HOTEL DU COMMERCE.

FIRST-CLASS HOTEL.—Proprietor, C. VANDEN BERGHE. The largest and oldest Hotel of the Town. Comfort. Moderate Charges.

Special Omnibus.

BRUSSELS.

HOTEL DE SUÈDE.

FIRST-CLASS HOTEL, in a thoroughly central position near the New Boulevards.

EXCELLENT TABLE D'HÔTE. CHOICE WINES.

VAN CUTSEM, Proprietor.

BRUSSELS.

HOTEL MENGELLE

(RUE ROYALE).

B. MENGELLE, PROPRIETOR.

THIS large and beautiful First-Class Hotel is situated in the finest and most healthy part of the Town, near to the Promenades the most frequented, and is supplied with every modern accommodation and comfort. Table d'Hôte at 6 and 7.15, five francs. Restaurant à la carte, and at fixed prices, at any hour. Excellent "Cuisine" and Choice Wines.

Baths, Smoking Room, Reading Room, and Carriages.

Arrangements made with Families during the Winter Season.

BRUSSELS.

HOTEL DE L'EUROPE,

PLACE ROYALE.

The best situation in Brussels, near the Park, Royal Palace, Boulevards, and Museum.

Table d'Hôte.

ENGLISH SPOKEN.

BRUSSELS.

HOTEL DE LA POSTE,

RUE FOSSÉ-AUX-LOUPS,

NEAR THE PLACE DE LA MONNAIE.

This Hotel, specially frequented by English and Americans, is situated in the centre of the Town, and near the principal Theatres.

BEST TABLE D'HÔTE. MODERATE CHARGES.

ENGLISH SPOKEN. OMNIBUS AT THE STATION.

BRUSSELS.

HOTEL DE L'UNIVERS,

RUE NEUVE,

Has a Wide Entrance from the New Boulevards, which places it in one of the best and most advantageous positions in the city. A First-class House for Families, to be recommended for its Comfort and Moderat- Prices. Table d'Hôte, Restaurant, Smoking-room, Reading-room.

Arrangements made for the Winter Season, or for a prolonged residence.

SCHOËFFTER-WIERTZ, Proprietor.

BRUSSELS.

GRAND HOTEL—GERNAY.

Moderate Charges. Ancien Propriétaire de l'Hôtel de Portugal à Spa.

This Hotel is close to the Railway Station for Ostend, Germany, Holland, Antwerp, and Spa, forming the Corner of the Boulevard Botanique et du Nord.

BRUSSELS.

HOTEL DE FRANCE.

RUE ROYALE AND MONTAGNE DU PARC.

MR. JOHN BARBER, the new Proprietor, has entirely refitted and re-arranged the Hotel de France. The Beautiful Situation of the Hotel (adjoining the Park), the Moderate Charges, Excellent Cuisine, and greatly improved Arrangements for the Comfort of Visitors, render this Hotel especially deserving the patronage of Travellers. Rooms from 3 francs and upwards.

Table d'Hôte (at Five o'clock in Winter, Six in Summer) 5 *francs.*

English and other Languages spoken.

CAEN.

HOTEL D'ESPAGNE,

71 & 73, RUE ST. JEAN.

A. MARIE, PROPRIETOR. FIRST-CLASS ESTABLISHMENT.

Recommended to Families. Moderate Prices.

CANNES.

GRAND HOTEL CALIFORNIE.

FIRST-CLASS Hotel, magnificently situated in extensive Pleasure Grounds, with a commanding View over the Bays, combines every comfort with elegance.

Open from the 1st of October to the 1st of June.

CHABASSIERE, Proprietor,

And also Proprietor of the "SPLENDID HOTEL" and of the "CONTINENTAL HOTEL" at the Baths of Royat (Puy de Dôme), France.

CAEN.

HOTEL D'ANGLETERRE,

Rue St. Jean, Nos. 77, 79, 81.

Situated in the Centre of the Town. Rendezvous of the best Society.

100 *Elegantly Furnished and Comfortable Bed Rooms and Sitting Rooms.*

BREAKFASTS À LA CARTE.

DINNER AT TABLE D'HÔTE, 4 FRANCS.

SUITES OF APARTMENTS FOR FAMILIES.

ENGLISH AND SPANISH SPOKEN.

L. MANCEL, Proprietor.

CANNES.

HÔTEL BEAU SITE.

SITUATED at the West end of Cannes, adjoining Lord Brougham's property; the finest part of the Town. Newly enlarged. 200 Rooms. 20 private Sitting-rooms. Reading and Smoking-rooms, and English Billiard-table.

Sheltered Situation, commanding an unequalled view of the Sea, the Iles Lérins, and the Esterel Mountain. Large beautiful Gardens, Promenades, and Lawn Tennis belonging to the estate. Arrangements made for the Season for Families. Moderate Charges. Bath-rooms and Lift.

Omnibuses at the Station.

OPENED THE 1ST OF OCTOBER.

GEORGES GOUGOLTZ, Proprietor.

CANNES.

WINDSOR HOTEL.

THIS First-Class Family Hotel is beautifully situated, not too far from the Town and the Sea, of which, however, it enjoys an extensive view.

Most Comfortable Apartments and Careful Attendance.

ED. SCHMID, Proprietor.

CANNES.

GRAND HOTEL DE PROVENCE.

Boulevard du Cannet. Proprietress, English.

SITUATED on rising ground, away from the Sea. Well sheltered, standing in its own grounds, with beautiful views of the Town, the Isles de Lérins, and the Esterel. Broad Terrace, and sheltered walks in the Gardens. Lawn Tennis and Croquet Ground. The Hotel combines the comfort and quiet of an English home, with all the accessories of a First-Class Hotel. Good Cuisine. Drawing, Billiard, and Smoking Rooms. The situation is highly recommended by medical men.

An Omnibus meets the Trains.

CANNES.

HOTEL NATIONAL.

OPEN all the year. Central position. Southern aspect. MODERATE CHARGES. Arrangements made by the week.

JOSEPH CARDON, Proprietor.

ENGLISH SPOKEN.

CHALONS-SUR-MARNE.

HOTEL DE LA CLOCHE D'OR.

ET DU PALAIS ROYAL.

Kept by JAUNAUX ERNEST, Proprietor and Director.

This Hotel has always been recommended for its great comfort.

TABLE D'HÔTE AND RESTAURANT.

PERSIAN SMOKING ROOM. CHOICE WINES.

OMNIBUSES TO AND FROM THE STATION.

CARLSBAD.

Hotel and Dependance "Villa Helenenhof" De Hanover.

FIRST-CLASS HOTEL, situated in the centre of the Town, near all the Springs. Cuisine, and strictly Moderate Charges. English spoken. Omnibus at the Station.

C. R. ZÖRKENDÖRFER, *Proprietor.*

CHAMONIX.

HÔTEL DU MONT BLANC.

Enjoying an exceptional View of Mont Blanc and the Valley.

GOOD TABLE AT MODERATE PRICES.

Baths and Garden attached to the Hotel.

CACHAT, PROPRIETOR.

CHAMONIX.

HÔTEL DES ALPES.

A VERY comfortable Hotel, with splendid View from every side of the House. First-rate Cuisine. Hot and Cold Baths in the House. English, French, and German Newspapers. Moderate Charges and Reduction for a long Residence.

J. J. KLOTZ, PROPRIETOR.

CHAMONIX.

GRAND HOTEL IMPERIAL AND DE SAUSSURE.

FIRST-RATE HOUSE.

All desirable comfort is secured in this Establishment. Baths. English and American Newspapers. Reading, Smoking, and Billiard Rooms.

BEST VIEW ON THE GLACIERS.

HOTEL ROYAL.

THIS First-Class Family Hotel is in the most beautiful situation in Chamonix, with large Park and Observatory. Patronised by the Royal Family of England, and other Sovereigns of the World.

These two Hotels belong to the same Company.

COBLENTZ.

Grand Hotel de Belle Vue.

FIRST-CLASS HOTEL,

With every Comfort. Magnificent View of the Rhine. Moderate Charges.

Proprietor, H. HOCHE.

COLOGNE.

HOTEL DU DOME.

More comfortable than luxurious. In the front of the Cathedral; three minutes from the Central Station. Fixed but Moderate Charges. (65 Journals.)

THEODOR METZ, Proprietor.

COLOGNE ON THE RHINE.

JOHANN MARIA FARINA,

GEGENÜBER DEM JÜLICH'S PLATZ

(Opposite the Jülich's Place),

PURVEYOR TO H.M. QUEEN VICTORIA;
TO H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES;
TO H. M. WILLIAM KING OF PRUSSIA; THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA;
THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA;
THE KING OF DENMARK, ETC. ETC.,

OF THE

ONLY GENUINE EAU DE COLOGNE,

Which obtained the only Prize Medal awarded to Eau de Cologne at the Paris Exhibition of 1867.

THE frequency of mistakes, which are sometimes accidental, but for the most part the result of deception practised by interested individuals, induces me to request the attention of English travellers to the following statement:—

The favourable reputation which my Eau de Cologne has acquired, since its invention by my ancestor in the year 1709, has induced many people to imitate it; and in order to be able to sell their spurious article more easily, and under pretext that it was genuine, they procured themselves a firm of *Farina*, by entering into partnership with persons of my name, which is a very common one in Italy.

Persons who wish to purchase *the genuine and original Eau de Cologne* ought to be particular to see that the labels and the bottles have not only my name, *Johann Maria Farina*, but also the additional words, *gegenüber dem Jülich's Platz* (that is, opposite the Julich's Place), without addition of any number.

Travellers visiting Cologne, and intending to buy my genuine article, are cautioned against being led astray by cabmen, guides, commissioners, and other parties, who offer their services to them. I therefore beg to state that my manufacture and shop are in the same house, situated *opposite* the Julich's Place, and nowhere else. It happens too, frequently, that the said persons conduct the uninstructed strangers to shops of one of the fictitious firms, where, notwithstanding assertion to the contrary, they are remunerated with nearly the half part of the price paid by the purchaser, who, of course, must pay indirectly this remuneration by a high price and a bad article.

Another kind of imposition is practised in almost every hotel in Cologne, where waiters, commissioners, &c., offer to strangers Eau de Cologne, pretending that it is the genuine one, and that I delivered it to them for the purpose of selling it for my account.

The only certain way to get in Cologne my genuine article is to buy it personally at my house, *opposite the Jülich's Place*, forming the corner of the two streets, Unter Goldschmidt and Oben Marspforten, No. 23, and having in the front six balconies, of which the three bear my name and firm, *Johann Maria Farina*, Gegenüber dem Jülich's Platz.

The excellence of *my* manufacture has been put beyond all doubt by the fact that the Jurors of the Great Exhibitions in London, 1851 and 1862, awarded to me the Prize Medal; that I obtained honourable mention at the Great Exhibition in Paris, 1855; and received the only Prize Medal awarded to Eau de Cologne at the Paris Exhibition of 1867, and in Oporto 1865.

COLOGNE, *January*, 1880. JOHANN MARIA FARINA,
GEGENÜBER DEM JÜLICH'S PLATZ.

*** MESSRS. J. & R. M'CRACKEN, 38, *Queen Street, Cannon Street, E.C., are my Sole Agents for Great Britain and Ireland.*

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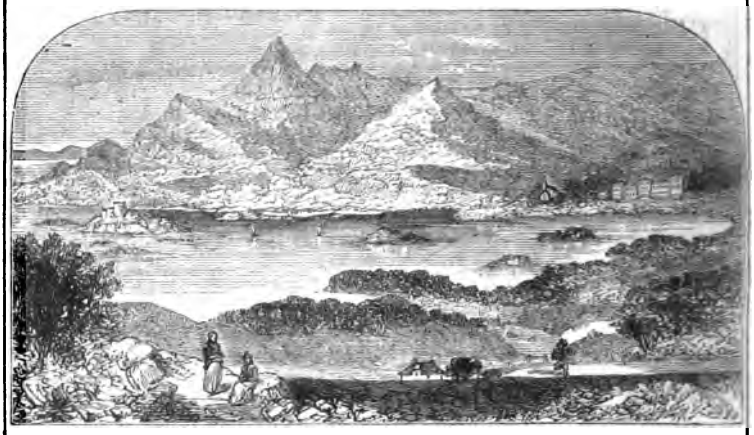
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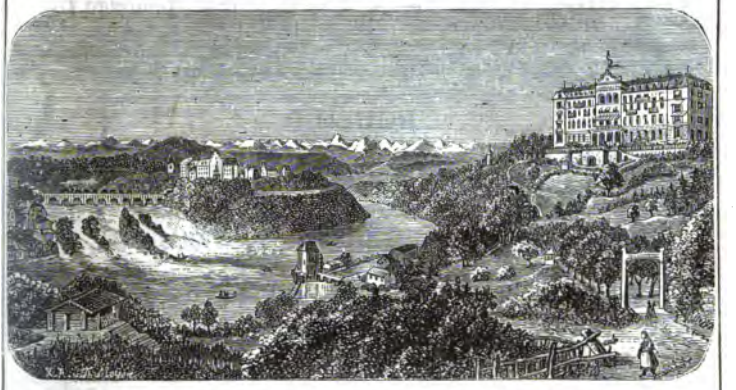
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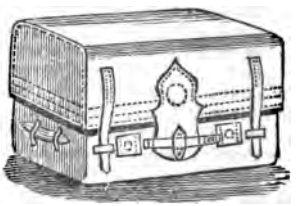
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